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THE TABLOID The most wanted woman in America



NEWS The most dangerous cars Reserved in Britain page 3

WEATHER: Soushine and sho



(IR45p) 40p

Caning for 3,000 bad head teachers

An unrepentant Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, vesterday said the number of incompetent teachers had only dropped from 15,000 to 13,000, and immediately opened a new front - this time against 3,000 beads who he said were not doing their joh

properly.

Mr Woodhead went on the offensive after new figures cast doubt on his 15,000 estimate by revealing that only 88 teachers from 4907 schools in-spected since last April have been

given the two lowest grades.
In the Commons, John Major told Tony Blair that he would not rule out making a new qualification for head teachers compulsory. His announce-





accuser (top) and the accused

at came only hours after Gillian icohard, the Secretary of State for cation, had said on BBC Radio 4's day programme that the alification would remain voluntary.

Mr Major said: "I think I would like see how it works hut I certainly ould not rule it out." Labour said his marks were a further example of a hit between Mrs Shephard and the time Minister. Officials from Mr Woodhead's Of-

to for Standards in Education said the 3,000 figure was a preliminary estiate based on primary school inections between April and ecember last year. Mr Woodhead ofered the new figure after saying that companson could be made between he old system, which produced [5.00], and the new gradings, which

QUICKLY

He suggested the difference was largely explained by better teaching but also that his own inspectors might be partly to hlame. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats education spokesman.said. This is a goal-post moving exercise of quite amazing proportions,'

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Clearly the number of teachers who receive the lowest grades bears no relation to the numbers he described as incompetent a year ago."

Mr Woodhead's office has written to all inspection contractors to remind them to be tough on bad teaching. He is also considering a new inspection sys-tem which would mean that a higher proportion of teachers would he reported to the head for bad teaching.

In his annual report, Mr Woodhead said that schools were getting better as the culture in education changes. Questions were being asked, he said, about teaching methods.

More children were being grouped by ability and there was more wholeclass teaching. "Primary schools are grouping their older pupils in ability sets for some teaching. Many are making more use of ability grouping within the class. In secondary schools, setting by ability is leading to more ef-fective teaching," he said. More was also being done to take action against incompetent teachers. . However, he said standards need-

ed to be improved in half of primary schools and two-fifths of secondaries. "The percentage of lessons judged to be unsatisfactory or poor [about 16 per cent is an improvement on last year's figure [18 per cent]. That this figure remains as high as it does, shows that the old orthdoxies continue to exert their influence in too many classrooms." Big improvements were still needed in about one in 12 primary schools and one in ten secondaries. Lessons are worst for junior pupils.

Literacy and numeracy were still a worry, he said. Too many primary school children were not making

enough progress.

Mr Woodhead did not suggest that
the one in seven primary heads and one in ten secondary ones offering poor leadership should be sacked but he said: "The problems they are facing must be recognised and, if they are not making enough progress, governors and local authorities oeed to face up to the fact."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, pointed out that it was only in the last two years that the Government had begun to fund the kind of training for heads which had always been necessary. Mr Hart said there was no justification for making the new heads' qualification

Both the Prime Minister and Mrs Shephard welcomed the evidence in the report of improving standards. Inp schools list, Three Rs at five, page 8 Letters, page 13

David Usborne

solutely no use for. On the oth-

wanted person.

This was the lesson belated-

New York

But last night youths looking for a

and 13 other large towns.

Lady of the dance: Charo Espino in Arte y pasion, in which she appears with the Pacn Peña Flamenco Dance Company at the Peacock Theatre, central London, until 1 March The independent last night won the Guinness Award for the best use of black and white photography in a national newspaper. It was presented at the British Picture Editors' awards at the Guildhall, in London Test for Milosevic as he offers power to the people

Emma Daly

After 78 days of protests, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia has apparently bowed to the will of his people, ordering his government to accept the opposition's victory in local elections.

return match with riot police stooed traffic police and smashed windows, provoking shooting from plainclothes policemen and increasing tension in Belgrade. The Prime Minister, Marko Marjanovic, is to implement Mr Milosevic's demand today, according to state television, and will ask parliament to enact a law allowing councillors from Zajedno, the opposition coalition, to take control of the city hall in Belgrade

But Zajedno leaders were cautious,

 ✓ I will not believe this until I see Zajedno take their seats and form

Belgade's new city council 🤊

Election crisis, page 10

concessions only to gain time. Zoran Djindjie, the most charismatic of the triumvirate leading the opposition, said Serbia's crisis had deepened since the poli oo 17 November and that the Socialists would have to do more than acknowledge electoral defeat. The opposition also demands a free press and punishment of officials responsible for the electoral theft and the viriot police. Thousands of demonstrators gathered in Belgrade's Republic Square yesterday afternoon cheered the news and demanded that Mr Milosevic resign.

They dispersed peacefully under the watch of at least 1,000 riot police hut a few dozen youths hung around and stoned traffic police, some of whom fired into the air, according to radio

By 7.30pm last night, when citizens whistle and haog pots and pans to drown the propaganda on state tele-vision news, peaceful demonstrators and some hooligans were mingled in Republic Square, muddying the waters of protest. Some youths among them were clearly determined to provoke violent scenes and within half ao hour hundreds of riot police were back in

Chnice, what chnice? page 14 aware that Mr Milosevic has used such Directly to jail in Monopoly sting

ar fail crash test even small cars subjected to is by the Transport Research aboratory failed to meet crash tandards - provoking outrage counthe Society of Motor Manacturers and Traders, which and the tests had been deigned so that the cars would Page 3

Coffee price hike be cost of a cup of coffee is set to soar within the next few days s retailers pass on a rise in the

price of beans. Clarke 'infallible'

kenneth Clarke was given a anging endorsement by the Prime Minister as the infallible Chancellor" during question

Major stands firm John Major attacked the social

chapter as a "Trojan horse" in a speech in Brussells, his first visit to the capital for nearly two years. He said the British gov ernment had made up its mind. Our enterprise economy is not negotiable."

Train crash Four people were hurt when a freight train carrying stone hallast plunged off a bridge and crashed into a huilding in the centre of Bexley, Kent. Page 4 Child abuse evidence

The first witnesses to give evidence to the North Wales child abuse inquiry told how they were abused but did not complain because "if anything happened to you, it was just part of the regime." Page 4

The sting began when the po-lice department sent out 2,800 letters to missing suspects, most of them wanted for small-time When you get a letter in the post offering you something for nothing, particularly if it is cash, there has to be a catch. Usually it's an obligation first to buy something else you have ab-

misdemeanours, such as drug possession and violation of probation. Purportedly from the "New York Division of Unclaimed Funds," the letters told the recipients that they were er hand, it could be instant owed money and invited them to visit an address in the Bronx arrest. Especially if you are a to collect it.

More than 800 of the letters ly learned by more than 250 American fugitives who fell for were returned "address-unknown". A good number who a fun-filled ruse pulled by the finest of New York City. The got them apparently recognised the fingerprints of the law. gullible runaways got their (The NYPD, after all, tried something similar last Thankscheques, but of a strictly Mogiving when it tried to snare fugitives with free turkeys). nopoly variety, marked with the message: "Go Directly to Jail".

But enough of them took the hait. Among them was Carlos Carmelio, wanted for possession of marijuana. The young man travelled 3,000 miles by hus from New Mexico to meet his appointment with new-found wealth. He went directly to the Bronx and to the so-called Unclaimed Funds office, where even the receptionist was an

agent under cover. Obviously enjoying themselves, the officers went so far as to have cheques ready for each of their visitors, none of which were hankable. The dud cheques were illustrated with a depiction of a Monopoly card. with the words: "Go Directly To Jail, Do Not Pass Go, Do Not

Such was the surprise of those caught by the sting that all apparently gave themselves up without violence. It was so calm," said Deputy Inspector Anthony Kissik. "They just came in and they surrendered."

Mr Carmelio was doubly pained. He had been been expecting not \$200 hut \$6,000. Worse, on his surrender, the police found more marijuana in his coat pockets.



Hindley vows to fight against 'incarceration by lynch mob'

Myra Hindley last night vowed to continue her fight to be released from prison after being told officially by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. that she will never be freed.

In a statement from her cell to The Independent. Hindley described her incarceration as political "containment" fuelled y a "ḥneb-moh rationale".

The Independent disclosed in December 1994 that David Waddington, the lormer Home Secretary, had secretly decided in 1990 that she should serve a whole life sentence - or tariff from which she would never he released. Her lawyers challenged that decision but yesterday Mr Howard rejected their representations and confirmed the tariff.

Hindley and Ian Brady were jailed for life in 1966 for the moors murders of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. In 1987, they confessed to killing Keith Ben-oett, 12, and Pauline Reade, 16.

Responding from Durham jail Hindley, 54, said: "I have been in prison for more than three decades. During those years. I have been transformed by the tabloids from the willing ecomplice described at my trial ... into the instigator and per-

petrator of the crimes."

by expressing regret for the victims of her crimes and their relatives, says: "Regarding the nature of the crimes in which I was involved - nobody but mysell can be fully aware of their

heinousness." And she goes on to quote a report by the Committee on the Penalty for Homicide, chaired by Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, which says the current system which allows Home Secretaries to decide on prisoners' tariffs "confers on a politician decisions that are by their very oature senteoeiog decisions. This means that considerations of politics rather than justice determine the length of offenders' sentences".

Hindley's lawyers said they would he challenging Mr Howard's decision by way of ju-dicial review in the High Court. In a statement, the solicitors Taylor Nichol said the original trial judge. Mr Justice Fenton Atkinson, had said only that Hindley should he kept in prison for a very long time.

The advice of the then Lord Chief Justice Lord Widgery in 1978 was that she should serve a shorter term than Brady. In 1982, Lord Lane recommended she serve 25 years, advice he confirmed in 1985, but in the same year the Home Office set its provisional tariff of 30 years. David Waddington then fixed

The statement, which begins	the whole life tariff in 1990.				
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WHERE TO ACQUIRE A TASTE FOR OYSTERS



ROLEX

The seamless Oyster shell of a Rolex chronometer is hewn from a single block of stainless sicel, 18ct. gold or platinum. Within it lies a self-winding movement that has taken over a year to create. With prices starting at £1,400, the Oyster you always promised yourself is available from the Harrods Watch Department on the Ground Floor. Not, we might add, from the Food Hall.



Man accused of murdering journalist

A 32 year-old Dublin man was yesterday charged with the murder last June of Dublin crime reporter Veronica Guerin.
Paul "Hippo" Ward of Windmill Park, Crumlin, was already in eustody on charges brought last October of conspiracy to murder

the journalist and of being an accessory to the killing.

State solicitor Clare Galligan told Kilmainham District Court in Dublin that the earlier charges against Mr Ward were being withdrawn. Mr Ward also faces a charge of possession and supply of cannabis at an address in Tallaght, Dublin last October, and Ms Galligan said it would be decided whether to proceed with those charges when forensic test results were delivered. Mr Ward was remanded in custody for a further week.

Pesticides blamed for bird decline

The increasing use of herbicides and pesticides is destroying the food chain of farmland birds and threatening their survival

conservationists warned yesterday.

The finding came during a study carried out by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and five other countryside groups to look into the reasons for the drastic decline in the populations of some species. The worst his species is the tree sparrow, whose numbers fell by 89 per cent between 1969 and 1994, followed by the grey partridge (down 82 per cent), the corn hunting (80 per cent) and the skylark (58 per cent).

In 1970, just 5 per cent of land was sprayed with insecticides, compared to 90 per cent in 1990. During the same period, the use of herbicides almost doubled - in 1970, each field was sprayed 1.3 times while 20 years later the figure had risen to 2.5 times.

Briton killed by Rwanda gunmen

A British human rights monitor and a Cambodian colleague were killed in south-west Rwanda when their vehicles were ambushed by gunmen. Two Rwandan assistants were also killed. The names of the victims were being withheld until families had been notified. The attack was the latest in a series of incidents in which foreigners have been targeted, and the third involving UN human rights monitors. Western Rwanda is a stronghold for Hutu internal to the property of the property of the property of the property in the latest in

insurgents, many of whom were involved in the 1994 genocidal slaughter of more than 500,000 people, and since they began returning from Zaire at the end of last year, there have been about 500 killings - raising concern about a return to civil war.

Stepfather in court on murder charge



of missing schoolgirl Zoe Evans - Army private Miles Evans (pictured) - was remanded in custody by West Wiltshire magistrates yesterday accused of murdering the nine-yearold between 9 and 12 January. After the bearing at Trowbridge magistrates court, Inspector Geoff Hicks of Wiltshire police renewed an appeal for help in finding Zoe's body. He said: "We are still appealing to the public to

point us in the right direction and we are looking for any evidence that might identify where she is." Fifty officers were still working on the case. Inspector Hicks added.

Runaway fraudster starts jail term

A fugitive businessman who cheated riding stables, stud farms and livery yards of £1m, was yesterday brought back to Britain from South Africa to begin a 33-month jail sentence

Peter Lane, 54, of Hopwood, Worcestershire, and a fellow director of his company, were convicted a year ago of two fraud charges after a 10-week trial. He went missing while on bail and was sentenced in his absence.

Police held in corruption probe

Five RUC officers - including one inspector - were among a number of men arrested yesterday by detectives involved in a major corruption inquiry linked to the sale of second-band cars in Northern Ireland. Seven car dealers were also detained in West Tyrone, Fermanagh and South Derry. The covert operation bas been going on since October 1995 and detectives travelled extensively throughout the UK as part of the investigation.

University plans new £10m library

Oxford University yesterday unveiled plans for a new £10m library to bring under one roof its collections in classics, archaeology. Egyptology and art history.

The Sackler Library, proposed as the first stage of a new centre for humanities next to the Ashmolean Museum, will be financed with a gift from the Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation and matching funds from the university. The building, designed as a retunda in a classical style, would accommodate 12,000 metres of books on the cultures of Greece, Rome, the near East and Asia, currently scattered round other university libraries.

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Grande dame of American politics fights for her life

to France and grande dame of American politics, was gravely ill in hospital in Paris yesterday after suffering a brain haemorrage on Monday night.

Mrs Harriman, 76, the former daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill, was taken'll while swimming in the pool at the Ritz Hotel. Her son, the Conservative MP Winston Churchill, flew to Paris yesterday to be at her bed-President Jacques Chirac asked the foremost French

surgeons to make themselves available to the American Hospital in the suburb of Neuilly where Mrs Harri-

and the First Lady are with Mrs Harriman at this moment,"

amele Harriman, the British-born US ambassador the eve of the Second World War. On her divorce at the end of the war, she moved to France, where she was friendly with, amongst others, Gianni Agnelli, Andre Mairaux, and Jean Cocteau. In 1960 she married the Hollywood producer Leland Hayward.

After his death in 1971, she met, and married, the billionaire statesman and political fixer, Averell Harriman, whom she had known during the war.

For 15 years, their mansion in Georgetown, Washington was one of the principal political salons in the United States, and the Harrimans among the leading fig-ures, and financiers, of the Democratic Party. After her man was said to be in "very serious" condition:

President Clinton, a friend and protege of Mrs Harriman continued the role alone, encouraging, amongst others, the amman long before he reached the White House, was said to be deeply concerned. "The thoughts of the President a young southern Senator, Al Gore. She became amthird husband's death in 1986, Mrs Harriman continued ssador to Paris when Clinfon became President in 1993.

a White House spokesman said.

It was strongly rumoured a year ago that she would be refined by the start of a second Clinton term. The rumour was renewed only this week by Newsweek. leading figures on both sides of the Atlantic for the last — which predicted she would be replaced by Frank Wis six decades. Born Pamela Digby in Famborough in 1920, — ner, ambassador in New Delhi, or Felix Rohatyn, an econ she married Randolph Churchill when she was 19, on omist close to the President. John Lichfield -- Paris

The teenage girl who died trying to cure her acne

A teenage girl trying to cure her acne died from a blood clot after taking prescription skin-care pills which also work as oral contracep-

tives, an inquest heard yesterday. Christina Robinson (right), a 17year-old A-level student from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, died from a massive blood clot on her lung af-

ter taking the pills. She had tried a variety of antibi-otics and creams to get rid of her spots but when they did not work she was advised to turn to a pill called Dianette.

Six weeks later - half-way through her second monthly packet - she suffered breathing difficulties end collepsed, according to her mother, Hitary. She collapsed

again a week later and died in intensive care, said Mrs Robinson. Dianette, which has been taken by thousands of women, has the same possible side-effects, such as deep vein thrombosis, as con-

traceptive pills. However, family planning experts yesterday urged women not to panic and stressed that the chances of women developing deep vein thrombosis from being



on Dianette were "extremely rare"

less than 60 in 100,000. Schering Health Care, makers of the pill, said: "We are very sorry to hear of this case ... Precautions for the use of all oral contraceptives are well known and they remain an extremely effective and well-tolerated method of contraception.

Yesterday Mrs Robinson said: "We want to make it clear that we do not blame the professionals in this, we just want to warn other

people what can happen." An Inquest was opened yesterday in Great Yarmouth and adjourned until May. Matthew Brace

Firth left cold by screen heat

Colin Firth, the actor who set female hearts racing as Charles Darcy in Pride and Prejudice, claims the heaving bodices in the hit series left him cold.

He told the Radio Times "it wasn't my cup of tea". "I felt like a drug dealer who doesn't get high on his own supply. I'll peddle the stuff but won't use it. All I did was

put on a costume and act." Firth is now starring In Nostromo on BBC2. He will soon be seen in The English Patient, the big screen edeptation of Michael Ondaatje'e Booker Prize-winning novel, and also the film of Nick Hornby's

Fever Pitch. Firth is touchy about his own romantic life. "The Implication that I go around with a bimbo on my arm is not correct," he said.

He said of his year-long relationship with Jennifer Ehle, his Pride and Prejudice co-star: "It wasn't just a location romance." He added: "It's perceived that actors go off with each other, and

that is not ... entirely unjustified. The outside world disappears, to he replaced by this intense world. You don't have to worry about ... the gas bill. You just forget things. David Lister

briefing

PUBLIC SERVICES

Opting-out blamed for lack of accountability

Doctors, teachers and housing officers believe they are now less accountable to the public they serve as a result of the Government's programme of encouraging schools, hospitals and bousing estates to "opt out" of local authority or NHS control. A two-year study by Brunel University, sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council, is sceptical of claims that opting out has increased efficiency or made these organisations any more responsive to the public.

The researchers dispute assertions by ministers that things are better outside the control of councils or the National Health Service and argue there is no reliable data to oo which to hase "before and after" comparisons.

Opting Out and the Experience of Self Management, ESRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UJ. David Walter

HOUSING

Building confidence in recovery

The number of new homes being built in Britain has reached its highest level for over two years, according to Government statistics. Ministers claimed this was further evidence of a strong recovery in the housing market, with a 33 per cent rise in the last quarter of 1996, compared with the same period a year earlier. The number of new homes started in the whole of 1996 was put at 174,200, 4 per cent higher than in 1995. The latest figures for

homes under construction are broadly in line with the Government's census-based prediction that 4.4 million extra homes are needed in England over the next 25 years.

But these statistics also show that while private-sector house construction is gathering strength, public-sector building by housing associations for poorer families remains in a slump, following severe cuts in Government grants.

Nicholas Schoon

House-building in Great Britain Construction starts (000s) 200 Private Enterprise

EMPLOYMENT

Real-terms earnings in decline

Government claims of rising prosperity are called into question today by new analysis of official figures. Data provided by the House of Commons Library to the Labour Party shows a 1.2 per cent fall in real earnings for the last three years.

1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Northern England has fared worst, with a decline of 12.5 per cent in the north-west and 4.7 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside. The biggest rise was enjoyed in Greater London with a 7.6 per cent rise, but the South-East outside the capital experienced a decline of 0.5 per cent.

When the pay of part-timers was taken into account, real median earnings stood at £228 in spring 1993 and £225 in spring 1996. The calculation points to the notional period in the middle earnings. taking into account the rate of inflation. Barrie Clement

AVIATION

Missile protection recommended

A commission of aviation experts convened by President Bill Clinton following the crash of TWA 800 last summer is to recommend fitting commercial airliners with anti-missile devices

to help protect them against terrorist attack.

A draft of the commission's report, which should be officially published next week, includes a call on the US government to "prepare for use of surface-to-air missiles by terrorists", among other sweeping recommendations on improving flight safety.

The possibility of a missile attack was seriously considered by

investigators into the TWA crash, following eyewitness reports of a investigators into the TWA crash, following eyewitness reports of a streak of light touching the plane before it fell. But the theory has fallen from favour, with an explosion in a central fuel tank now seen as the likely cause.

David Usborger

SCIENCE

'Human pollen' causes hay fever

Both the immediate and lingering effects of bey fever are caused because pollen particles closely resemble a molecule found in the buman body, according to US scientists. Two new studies published in this month's issue of the journal Structure discovered that the three-dimensional structure of a protein called profilin, which binds pollen to other molecules, is the same in many places as that



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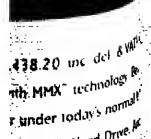
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EWSPAPERS JPPORT RECY yoled paper made w the material for UK he first half of 1996



UIT



Nice car: roomy, nippy and economical – but is it safe?

Randeep Ramesh and Christian Wolmer

New crash tests designed for safety-conscious motorists yesterday provoked a furious row between the matar

industry and consumer groups.

All seven small cars failed tests carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory in Berkshire, provoking out-rage from the Society of Motor Manu-facturers and Traders whose spokesman. Roger King, said: "These tests have been designed on purpose so that cars fail them. Cars are not built to these standards and therefore they cannot possibly meet them".

The £1m testing programme ranked the Rover 100, the latest version of the Metro which is one of Britain's best-selling small hatchbacks, as the worst for car safety in the results issued by the Department of Transport-sponsored crash tests. The Rover 100, received just one star out of a possible four in the Euro New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) ratings. The Vauxhall Corsa, Nissan Micra, Fiat Punto and Renault Clio fared

slightly better, scoring two stars. The Ford Fiesta, Britain's best-selling small car, and the Volkswagen Polo topped the table with three stars.

The findings of the survey will be published in the motor magazine What Car? and will be made available to all .12 million RAC and AA members. However, the Government will not force dealers to carry the information.

We think and hope that industry will use these results to promote their cars," said John Bowis, Road Safety minister. Two new cars of each model were bought by the testers and subject to side and front impact tests. Crashes with

pedestrians were also tested by shont-

ing dummy limbs and heads at the front In the tests, the Corsa, which was bought by nearly 76,000 motorists last year, saw the passenger's head severe-ly damaged by hitting the glove com-partment in a frontal collision. The driver's knees in a Renault Clio were found to be particularly vulnerable and many of the airbags did not make a clean

confact with the dummies. Motoring organisations welcomed the new results." At last the consumer will be able to buy a safer car," said Edmund King, a spokesman for the RAC, one of the test sponsors. Research from Sweden has shown that half of fatal and disabling injuries could be saved if peo-ple chose the cars that gave the best without a scratch.

protection in each weight category.

Rover disagreed with the findings saying that the tests were "more severe than required by current legalisation". The company said the tests were "too fast". However Adrian Hobbs, of the Transport Research Laboratory, which carried out the tests, said that "we had to consider speeds where fatalities were likely to occur.

The manufacturers have criticised the tests, arguing that they carry out much more extensive testing on their models. However, Edmund King of the RAC pointed out that the manufacturers have failed to release information to allow people to compare models on the basis of safety. He said: This type of testing is carried out in Australia and is very influential in determining which models people buy."

One of the testers said he was very sceptical of the manufacturers willing-ness to publicise a car's failings: "We all see manufacturers shouting about how quickly they go from 0-60 mph. How willing would they be to say how slowly they can do 60-0 mph?" said one engineer.

Dealerships have also criticised the programme. "If you have a Rover dealership it is going to be very difficult to say oh yes it is much less safe than the other make' ... I mean, it hardly belps," said David Leibling, a spokesman for Lex Service, one of Britain's largest motor

showroom groups
Sheila McKechnie, the chief executive of the Consumers' Association, said that she would be writing to the Association of British Insurers to see whether the resuits could be used to lower premiums for certain marques.

The NCAP tests will also test family aloons with the results being published

Car manufacturers have fought on the Continent to prevent the testing pro-gramme from receiving European fund-

Martin Bangemann, the industry com-missioner, wrote to safety organisations last year warning them that such testing could damage the "brand image" of European

The rating system allows customers to see how likely they would suffer from serious injuries if they were driving in one of the cars tested. The worst results would mean that drivers would have a 20 per cent chance of incurring an injury while the best would mean drivers had a one in 20 chance of escaping

Motor industry chiefs beef over safety tests

The motor industry has been lobbying fiercely against these safety tests for the past few days, rulminating in a luncheon at the plush City Rhodes restaurant just off Fleet Street yesterday, timed to ensure that reporters could not go to Crow-

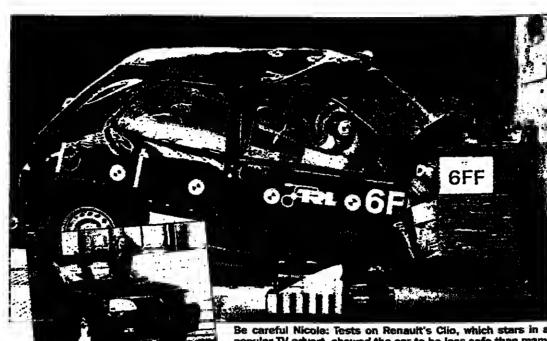
thorne for the briefing on the tests. David Coulthard, the racing driver, was wheeled out to give a talk on safe-ty and a series of spokesmen for the industry attempted to "set the record straight". Roger King, spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "We would not like to give the impression that we are here to

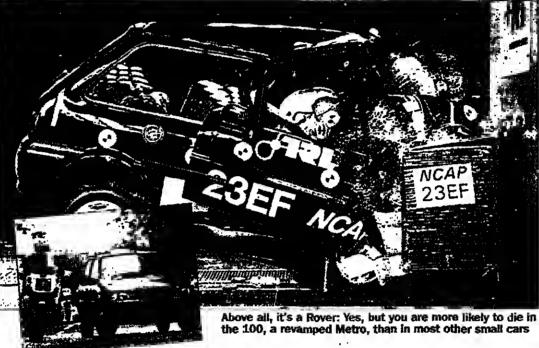
whinge and whine about this report." He could have fooled the 50 or so diners who had to put up with over an hour's amount left on people's plates, the haranguing about the inadequacy of the journalists were not convinced.

tests while waiting for a first course that did not come until after 2pm. A bad mis-take since everyone knows a journalist on an empty stomach is a bad-tempered

journalist. The message from the organisers, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, was that the industry is concerned about safety but that the tests performed by the Transport Research Lab-oratory were madequate. "You have to judge safety on more than just two tests,"

said Mr King.
The diners, however, were more concerned about their own health. Faced with something that looked like beef, one journalist asked Mr King anxiously: "Is it British beef?" A waiter said it was Scottish lamb hut by the







Bazaar tale of King Pepi and the Egyptian souvenirs

Jojo Moyes

A leading antiques restorer smuggled stolen tomb relies out of Egypt by painting them to look like cheap bazaar sou-venirs, even marking one with the word "Egypt", a court was

told yesterday.
Once back in England.
Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, known as "Jonty", cut up and repaint-ed the relies so they could be resold without trace, it was said at Knightsbridge Crown Court in west London.

On the first day of the trial. nembers of the jury were told hat Mr Tokeley-Parry said to Mark Perry, whom he commissioned to smuggle the pieces out of Egypt, that he was "doing the Egyptians a favour" by restoring them to their tormer glory. Earlier, they were shown pho-tographs of Mr Tokeley-Parry and an Egyptian accomplice sawing up a false door from the umh of Hetepka, hefore the sections were resold.

Mr Tokeley-Parry has pleaded not guilty to three counts of handling stolen goods, including artefacts from the pyramid tombs of Hetepka and King Pepi and a hronze figure of the Egyptian god Horus.

Paul Dodgson, for the pros-ecution, told the jury that the careful disguising of the welldocumented valuables once they were in England was essential if they were to be resold undetected. "If you can mislead the

prospective purchasers on where it came from, then you can also avoid the conclusion that the objeet was stolen after 1983," he said. This was the date on which the exports of Egyptian relics were banned under law. The court was told that Mark Perry, an odd-joh man, was in-

troduced to Mr Tokeley-Parry in 1992 by a mutual friend. With one child and another on the way. Mr Perry said he was keen o earn extra money. "He [Mr Tokeley-Parry] asked if I would be interested in doing a hit of smuggling. I wasn't interested at the time,"

Mr Perry said. "He said it

wasn't drugs, it was antiquities. I was all right with that." Mr Perry told the court that Mr Tokeley-Parry, who was said to have already attempted to recruit someone else, agreed to pay him £500 a trip to an as yet unnamed destination. "I was over the moon. It was nearly the same as I was earning in a

month." he said. Mr Perry, who had done very little travelling, said he assumed that "smuggling" meant that he would be breaking minor export think I said something dalt like I'm in. He laughed ... he said

"I knew you would"."
Mr Perry said he was given a hlack Samsonite suitcase with combination locks, which Mr Tokeley-Parry told him were best for security, and told to buy some new clothes, for which he was given a loan.

The first trip, he was to be ac-companied by Mr Tokeley-Par-ry. "I thought if he's coming with me it can't be that difficult." Mr Perry said.

He said that when they arrived at the Windsor Hotel in Cairo in September 1992, Mr Tokeley-Parry checked himself as Dr Johnson, He appeared to be well known to hotel staff. Soon after they arrived, Mr Perry said, Egyptian people brought antiquities to their ho-tel room, including ligurines and a stone relief. He said Mr Tokeley-Parry showed him how to paint them up",

← We painted them up. You ended with a piece that looked as if it came from a bazaar 🤊

"We first had some sort of liquid, B72. It hardened as you painted it on, I suppose to save damage." Afterwards, they would apply gold leaf and dis-guise distinguishing features by, for instance, painting hi-eroglyphics black, "You ended up with a piece that looked like something out of a bazaar," Mr Perry said.

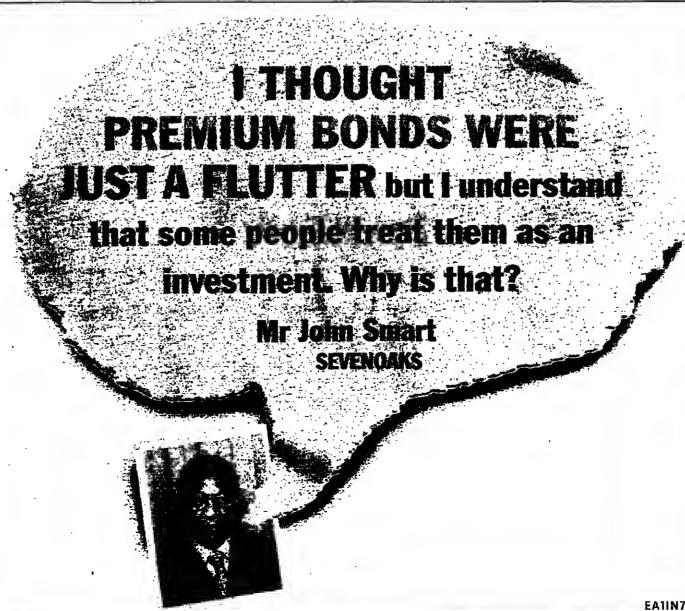
On the journey home, some days later, Mr Tokeley-Parry told him that they should ignore each other and they sat in separate parts of the plane for the duration of the return flight. Mr Perry was told, if questioned by customs, to say he had bought the pieces at a hazaar. The court was told that Mr

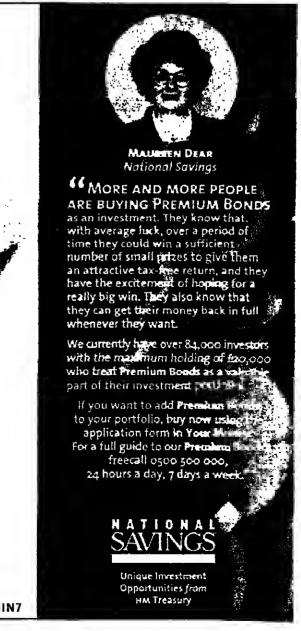
Perry subsequently made a suc-cession of trips for Mr Tokeley-Parry between 1992-93. collecting antiquities to be disguised and sold back in England. Mr Dodgson said the fact that the goods were stolen in Egypt did not matter to this court. There is no doubt that the items were stolen. They be-longed to the state of Egypt and therefore they are stolen

goods," he said. The case, which is expected laws. 1 spoke to Innathan to last six weeks, continues today.



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Witnesses tell of child abuse at Welsh home

The first witnesses in the North Wales child abuse inquiry told yesterday how they were physically abused at a children's home when they were teenagers and how difficult it was to complain.

Being sent to the oow-closed Bryn Estyn home was, according to one witness, regarded as a punishment.

Asked why he did not complain, one witness said: "It used to go on all the time. When you are 14 or 15, who do you complain to? I didn't complain, I didn't know how to complain. tf anything happeoed to you it was just part of the regime."

Another said he saw it as an approved school: "I was there to be treated the way I was."

The Waterhouse Tribunal, which is expected to take one year hearing evidence, heard that the first three witnesses had all been resident at Bryn Estyn. Wrexham, in the mid-1970s. Another 30 former residents of the home are due to give evidence over the next two weeks.

Each of the three said they had been struck by the former careworker Paul Wilson who three years ago was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment,



suspended for two years, for physically assaulting hoys at

The tribunal was also told of bullying among the residents of the home which had around 60 residents at any one time. The tribunal chairman, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, has ruled that none of the alleged victims or the alleged perpetrators can be named except where they have been convicted.

About 180 former residents due to give evidence. About 80 people have been accused of abuse and most of them are expected to give evidence. Because of the trauma of giving evidence about alleged ahuse, a special counselling service has been set up for former resideots. One of yesterday's witnesses, who was being questioned about an allegation he had made, said: "Do you know how hard it is for me to stand here today?"

The tribunal will hear evience from 26 former residents of Bryn Estyn who comptained of abuse. Another nine statements are being made by complainants who will not give evidence.

The tribunal was set up last year hecause of increasing concern about allegations of wide-spread ahuse, both physical and sexual, at homes across North Wales.

One of the witnesses, now 33, said of Paul Wilson: "Basically he was a hully who would pick on weaker children and those he didn't like."

Another, who was allegedly hit in the stomach, said: "He didn't hurt me, he was just being macho.

The witnesses told the triof homes in North Wales are hunal that they were unaware of any system for complaining at the home, which is one of more than 30 where there have been allegations of abuse made. The tribunal continues.



Engine of destruction: The scene at Bexley in Kent yesterday after a freight train plunged off the track while crossing a viaduct Photograph: PA



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Crash train hurtles off side of bridge

James Cusick

Engineering investigators will spend today trying to find out exactly what caused the derailment of a train which plunged off a bridge and ploughed into a huilding in the centre of Bexley, in south London.

Emergency service workers noon yesterday said afterwards that it was a miracle no one had been killed.

John Berry, the London Ambulance operations manager at the scene, said that four men had been rescued from the rubhle. He described three of them as "walking wounded" who had miraculously sustained only minor injuries and said the fourth was being treated for head and pelvic injuries. The four were last night being treated at Queen Mary's Hospital in

Sideup.

The train, operated by the reight franchise English Scottish Weish Railways was en route

from Three Bridges in West Sussex to Gillingham in Kent when it was derailed on a raised section above Victorian arches. Staff working in the businesses underneath described the crash as the train left the tracks on the hridge as "like an earthquake". Six of the train's 19 wagons

plus two engines came off the who arrived at the crash site—track and ploughed into the edge near Bexley station just after and roof of the arches, ripping away yards of masonry. The overturned wagons contaming stone ballast spilled their freight over the area, burying cars, trees, vans and outhouses belonging to the small engineering and motor companies below.

Rescue teams continued to work last night with thermal imaging cameras, trying to es-tablish that no one was left undemeath the mounds of rubble. Structural engineers from

track owner Railtrack said that the Victorian bridge itself was still intact, despite the force of the derailment. A spokesman said: "It is the derailment which has caused damage. The train

came off the track and crashed into the edge of the archway."

Railtrack said the company's primary aim was to establish the reason for the derailment but insisted that the bridge was safe and they believed it had not contributed to the accident, adding that comprehensive structural checks were carried out every six years on all railway bridge with visual checks being carried

out every year. However, a number of the businesses in the Bedey archways claimed that Railtrack had carried out no check in the last two years. Mike and Celia Sheehan, who own The Printers, said. "We have been here two years and Railtrack have conducted no tests. This is now a worry to us. We don't want to work here until we know it is safe."

Railtrack headquarters in London said that although the cause of the derailment had yet to be established they had no immediate plans to carry out nationwide checks on other Vic-

Wren suffered **'Chinese** torture'

A former Wreo became clinically depressed after a "Chinese torture" of sexual harassment and bullying from Navy colleagues, a psychiatrist told an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Dr David Enoch, a consultant psychiatrist who treated Lesley Morris, 23, in March 1996 - 10 mooths after she had left the Navy - said: "The constant sexual harassment and hullying were a massive precipitant in her depression. In my view it will take a long time for it to fade and will be a source of vulnerability for the rest of her life."

Miss Morris, from Shonon, near Chester, was discharged from the Navy in May 1995 as "temperamentally unsuitable" after she took an overdose of paracetamot tablets. She is claiming constructive dismissal

from the service.

Dr Enoch, emeritus consultant psychiatrist at the Royal
Liverpool Teaching Hospital, said the underlying feelings of failure at having to leave the Navy would be with Miss Morris for a long time.

The Manchester tribunal heard that she had been mentally scarred by her experi-ences. But Dr Enoch admitted that other factors may also have contributed to her depression.
"There were other reasons,

but the main reason was this Chinese torture. It was constant humiliation. It was made worse by the fact that she wanted to he in the Navy and wanted to stay in the Navy," he said. The case continues.

Dorrell to shake up care in community

Glenda Cooper

Radical plans to reform care in the community were put for-ward yesterday after the Government admitted that current practice had "failed too often".

"The status quo is not an option," said Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, launching the Greeo Paper on mental health yesterday. It listed four proposals for dealing with the mental health system aimed at preventing future communication breakdowns between health and social services which have been hlamed for a succession of care in the community tragedies.

These include Stephen Laudat who stabbed a fellow patient 82 times, Anthony Smith who killed his mother and brother and Christopher Clunis who stabbed to death Jonathan Zijo al a London underground station in 1993.

Last month a report by the research body the King's Fund into London's mental health services found that the capital was failing the mentally ill, with services near to collapse and unable to meet the demands made

The Green Paper's most farreaching proposal involves set-ting up a new statutory authority directly accountable to the Health Secretary which would be responsible for both health and social services for the mentally ill. At present the changes will only relate to mentally ill adults. A second option would designate either health or

local authorities as the single agency in charge of psychiatric

and social care. Other suggestions are for health and local authorities to establish new joint bodies betweeo them, or to delegate particular functions or responsibilities to each other.

"We either have to demonstrate that we can improve coordination by a number of administrative means within the statutory framework, or we have to change the statutory frame-work. The status quo has failed loo often," said Mr Dorrell.
"I think it is clear that any pol-

icy based purely on care in the community will not be a sensible policy to pursue," he added.

His proposals met with a mixed reaction from mental health charities. The charity Sanc backed the single unitary authority, seeing it us the most effective and economic way of providing heds, 24-hour care and properly trained staff.

But the charity Mind said setting up new unitary mental health authorities would only result in further upheaval and disruption".

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health also rejected the idea of new authorities, and called for a mental health agency headed by a single manager while health and social services departments retained their existing responsibilities.

Developing Partnerships in Mental Health published by The Stationery Office price £6.85

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Prejudices run deep among ethnic groups

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Large numbers of Asian, Afro-Caribbean, and Jewish people in Britain huld racist views about each other, according to a report published vesterday which challenges the belief that most prejudices are held by

Authors of the survey described the findings as threatening to open up "a Pandora's box" on the race issue.

The study of more than 1,700 people also suggests that Asians, blacks, and Jews are more prejudiced about inter-racial marriages than whites. Almost all white citizens believe that the British are prejudiced. In addition, white people were found to be anxious about their British identity, losing their 'culture" and jobs.

But the surprise finding of the Institute for Public Policy Research study is the apparent widespread prejudices held by non-whites in Britain.

Evidence was found of interethnic racism particularly between blacks and Asians, and a belief by the Asian and Jewish community that Afro-Caribbeans are harming improvements made in race relations.

In a rare piece of research on British racial prejudices the NOP polling organisation ques-tioned 933 whites, 282 Asians. 252 Afro-Caribbean's and 252 Jews during October and November last year.

On the question of interracial marriages almost half cent of Asians and 24 per cent

opposed to close relatives mar-rying Asians, with 47 per cent saying they would mind, com-pared to 28 per cent of whites and 18 per cent of blacks.

Marriage to Jews was apposed by 40 per cent of Asians, 19 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans, and 15 per cent of whites. Some of the opposition is believed to be due to religious

Asians, followed by Afro-Caribbeans, are most likely to think that the majority of refugees claiming asylum are bogus. Asians are also more likely in think that there are too many Africans and Asians

immigrating to Britain. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, a research fellow at the IPPR, said: "[It is a] complex picture and it will not do us any good to deny inter ethnic problems and white

She added: "I hope we don't have the USA condition where you have an awful backlash from whites (against the) ethnic community, but also between the different ethnic groups.

"We were worried that we were npening up a Pandura's box with these surveys."

In a more detail group dis-cussions researchers found people divided into four ideological groups. The "die hards", who are openly racist and tend to be white working class.

The "I'm not racist but . who are racist but do not admit it. They are often middle-class, the Jews questinned said they white females and first gener-would mind if one of their ation Asians, who say things close relatives married an Afro- such as: "I don't care what

Caribbean, compared to 46 per colour someone's skin is, but they can't come over here and get more than we do.

The "comfortable liberals", who are usually hand-wringing, white educated professionals with strong anti-racist views.

The fourth group comprises the "young optimists" who tend to be young and include more Asians and blacks, and mix with other ethnic groups and

feel racism is wrong.

A typical comment among this group was: "How can you jndge everyone just by the colour they are."

Other findings from the in-stitute's research include the view that immigration is not an important issue among the vast majority of the public.



Jurassic lark: A model being delivered yesterday at the Clocktower centre in Croydon, south London, for the dinosaur exhibition, Dinomites, which starts its national tour there next Thursday, it is a fun look at the lives of dinosaurs from conception through to teenage years Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Freedom - the children

"We're womied about the children. As if they were wild things, crazy

How can we help the children? Is it the food we give them? They're not bad children, lazy

DAILY POEM

By Ruth Silcock

They race round the field in the evening Or sickening for somethin Why do they play the fool The minute they come out of school?

Or glum. We forgive them, But why do they race in the evening, Silly and strange and leaping?"

Ruth Silcock's collection A Wonderful View of the Sea (which includes this poem) is published by Arvil Press at £7.95. Several of the poems draw on her firmer career as a social worker with both adults and children; she has also written several children's books.



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Competitive edge: The Tory MP Ian Bruce (right) coming in ahead of Labour's Austin Mitchell to win the House of Commons' annual Bramley and Spoon race at Westminister yesterday

'Infallible' Clarke left red-faced

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke yesterday was given a ringing endorsement by the Prime Minister as the "infallible Chancellor" which left both Tories and Labour MPs roaring for more as election fever again gripped the House

John Major's remarks were intended to emharrass the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, for his endorsement of Mr Clarke's limits on spending shows all the signs of a conand tax.

turned bright red with embar- ruary 27.

rassment at the Prime Minister's words, which echoed Baroness Thateher's endorsement of Nigel Lawson as "unassailable" shortly before her Chancellor resigned. Mr Major also ducked Lahour taunts about the rumours that the Tories could ahandon the Wirral South by-election to call an early general election.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "John Major's refusal to confirm whether the by-election will go ahead spiracy to deny the people of

that the Tories are preparing for defeat in the by-election, and Mr Major is teasing the Opposition about the election date. Tory MPs have been asking

There were continued signs

Conservative Central Office to clear up confusion between Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, who said they would win the by-election and Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, who said the voters would give the Government a kicking. The MPs were told that Mr Heseltine was "nearer to the message".

the Foreign Secretary, will Cook will say: "The grotesque weekend that it would be diffi- ma and prejudice".

today reinforce Mr Major's caricature to which Mr Major cult to stay out of a stable Euattack on Labour on Europe, Tory Euro-sceptics were unimpressed with Mr Major's sally into Brussels against the social ing of his office." chapter. "He should not he

home. It will prove counter-productive," said one disgruntled Tory MP. The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Rohin Cook, will hit back today accusing Mr Major of "demeaning" the role of Prime Minister by his Brussels speech.

Setting out Labour's position

using a speech in Brussels to car-

ry on the election campaign at

reduced the social chapter demeans both the level of political debate and the stand-

Attacking the Euro-sceptics as the "militant tendency" of the Tory party, he will challenge Mr Major to justify his claim that half a million British jubs would be under threat from the social chapter. There is nothing in the social chapter which threatens British competitiveness," Mr Cook will say in a lecture hosted by the Centre for European

ropean single currency in 2002, last night insisted that he was not committing Labour to entry of the single currency, if

it was established on time. "If we feel that Britain is able to benefit from the advantages of the single currency, we will go in. If it is not in a position in which it can compete on level terms within a single currency, with the monetary ohligations,

we will not go in." He said Labour would make its judgement on the economic conditions, whereas the



S. Anthony

Bobbitt strategy and cunning traps

Tony Banks was dazzled, and he did not like it. On a point of order, he raised the "increased luminosity" in the chamber. The extra light had, he quipped,

reminded him how "ugly they are on the other side".

The ungallant (but luminously correct) Mr Banks may well have been referring to his bete noire for the day, the Environment minister, Sir Paul Beresford - a Kiwi dentist knighted by Baroness Thatcher for services to Wandsworth Council. "Go back to your billabong!" Mr Banks shouted at one point during a Beresfordian extraction of a political point from an unaesthetised Labour or Liberal Democrat council.

It may well have been Kent County Council. Traditionally Tory, it has fallen to the barbarian hordes, and huge cuts are now having to be made in spending on education. The Town awing to be made in spending on evaluation. The council blames the Government, and the endangered Kent Tory MPs are desperately blaming the council. Jacques "Buzz-saw" Arnold invited the Mouth Mangler to lay into the wasters of the garden of England. Sir Paul did. Kent council was trying on an old trick: "cutting off something vital and they have income the bleeding themsel" then showing the bleeding stumps!"
While we were pondering this colourful Antipodean

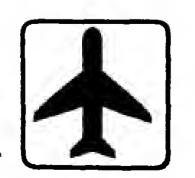
phrase (What exactly had been severed? was this another vile American import: the Bobbitt strategy?) Labour's tall and nervous spokesthing, Graham Allen, bad launched into a little tirade about how - come the revolution - Labour's candidates in the Kent seats would be more patriotically pro-Kent than the snivelling quislings presently in place (a fat lot of good it will do them too, since Gordon won't give 'em a penny extra, or lift the spending cap). The Gob Grubber was ready. "A double hlow here!" he exclaimed in the tones that have shrunk the testicles of thousands of male root-canal patients. On the one band we have the hleeding stumps - and on the other the counting of

It had all become too surreal: stumps and bleeding chickens, bridge-work, closing schools and Jacques Arnold. I closed my eyes and when I opened them again it was Prime Minister's question-time. The Labour leader Tony Blair had reverted to one of his "I'm a responsible guy" short single questions, and sat down (to spend the next 10 minutes stroking his chin, examining his tie as though an alien had affixed it to his chest when he was not looking. and gazing at the roof to see where this alien might have escaped to). It was left to the formidable Denis MacShane to do the damage. The Rotherham dandy drew himself up, buttoned his jacket, adjusted his cuffs, cleared his throat -and launched. What about ol' Clarkey and his imposition of an airport tax, which would cost a family of four an

average of 80 quid a throw, eh?
But, said John Major, had not the honourable gent's own shadow Chancellor just endorsed all the spending plans of said Clarke? "The Chancellor", he said, "is infallible!" Up till now chancellors have been "unassailable". Popes, alone,

have been infallible. Mixing them up may be unwise. Another Labour dandy, former firebrand and current DKNY clotheshorse Peter Hain was on hand with a terrible trap dug for Mr Major.

The Prime Minister had told Japanese industry that he could not wait for the Euro, but told Teddy Taylor MP that it was an abomination of hell. "Which", asked Mr Hain, "of these two views espoused by him were correct. Or is he infallible?" "No," replied the Prime Minister. "They're both incorrect". Philosophers will be discussing that one for



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Blair gives signal to put the Tube back on track

Tony Blair yesterday committed a Labour government to mod-emising the London Underground network in partnership with the private sector, and attacked Conservative plans to privatise the system.

During a speech on Labour's plans for a modernised, integrated transport system, Mr Blair said Labour would keep "strategic control" of the Underground, whilst allowing the private sector to provide trains

and maintain tracks. Responding to leaks of the Government's plans to sell off London Underground, which is valued at up to £13bn, for only £600m, the Labour leader told a meeting of industrialists in London: They like Govern-ment's plans offer the prospect of windfall gains for private sharebolders but no new inpassengers until, at the earliest, 2001. Tube fares will rise each year until privatisation, but

being maintained."

The Government appeared last night to have postponed its plans to announce the privatisation of the Underground this week after the memorandum by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, setting out the options to the Prime Minister, was leaked.

The leak was one of the most comprehensive disclosures of Cabinet discussions in recent years. In the memorandum, Sir George disclosed that the Cabinet had agreed to privatise the Underground at the meeting held at Chequers to consider plans for the manifesto. We agreed that we should

announce our intention to privatise London Underground at an early date. You may like to make the announcement, perhaps at one of your prime ministerial press conferences.

"Alternatively, I could do so, perhaps next week, to link in with the privatisation theme

once privatised, there would he which EDCP (Cahinet com-no guarantee of service levels mittee on co-ordination and presentation of policy) bas

> I would be grateful for your views and those of the business managers [whips] on handling. particularly on whether we should volunteer a parliamentary statement.

I believe that we should aim to move quickly in order to maximise the impact of the public announcement."

Sir George said he had subsequently met William Walde-grave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, over his concerns that it would be difficult "to sell to the public". Sir George said: "I believe that he is now content with my proposals ..." The is-sue of fares was "arguably the most damaging area of criticism during the railways privatisation," he added.
"I believe that, as a minimum,

we need to give a commitment to no real increase in average fares for at least the first four years after privatisation".

planned to keep ownership of the Underground in the public sector, whilst allowing more private sector involvement, from refurbishing stations to laying new track. "Across the whole range of London Underground's activities there is scope

to hring in private-sector capi-tal and skills," he said. "There could be new design, renew and operate' schemes where the private sector would refurbish and maintain the tracks and tunnels. Train manufacturers could be contracted; to provide trains to meet the ser-vice level set and run by Lon-

don Underground itself.

"It would mean we could make a start on improving the underground within months of the election of a new Government." Mr Blair's speech was delivered to a business and transport conference organised by the Industry Forum, the party's consultative body given the task of forging closer ties with

Civil servants angry at sell-off

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Civil Service unions are to mnunt a legal challenge against an attempt by ministers to push through the privatisation of the Paymaster General's Office be-

fore the general election.
The PGO, which performs a variety of administrative tasks for the Government including running the pensions system for nearly all 500,000 civil servants and I million other public-sector workers, is due to be sold off in the next few weeks in an ex-

tremely tight timetable. The schedule only allowed four weeks - including the Christmas period - for the checking of the accounts by the three companies which have been shortlisted. Bids were due in last mouth and the the Government is committed to a sale on 1 April. Graham Corbett, of the Civ-

il and Public Services Associa-tion, said: "The timetable for this is extremely tight and there is only one reason why they are in

such a hurry, they want to get it away before the general election
... There is going to be no time
for consultation once the preferred hidder is chosen and therefore we feel we have a good

chance of mounting a successful challenge in the High Court."

The unions fear job losses among the 642 staff, most of whom are based in Crawley, West Sussex.

Shortlisted are Capita, for-merly led by Michael Heseltine's adviser Alan Kemp; EDS, the American computer software gi-ant embroiled in a row over their plans to merge the inland Revenue and Department of Social Security databases, who are bidding with Hogg Robinson; and a management buy-out team bidding with ITuet.

New blow to ban on handguns

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Plans to clamp down on gun ownership after the Dunhlane sacre suffered a new setback last night as the shooting lobby inflicted its second defeat in a month on ministers.

The Government must now try to reverse changes to its Firearms (Amendment) Bill in the House of Commons.

The Bill aims to ban all highcalibre handguns and to restrict lower calibre .22 pistols to secure gun clubs. However, the pro-shooting lobby has been working hard to water them

Last night, peers backed by 153 votes to 139 a backbench Tory amendment that would alowners of .22s to keep their weapons at home provided that the working parts were kept separately at secure gun

clubs. Last month they voted for compensation to be paid to gun clubs that are forced to

close by the Bill. On that occasion 86 Tories voted against the Government, and only 79 for. The fresh defeat came despite the fact that 40 Labour peers supported the

Government. Baroness Blatch, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the proposed "disassembly" of weapons would be unworkable. Later, a Home Office spokesman said the Government would not allow the

amendments to remain. "It is one of the main principles of the Bill that higher calibre handguns should be prohibited and that no handguns should be kept at home." he said. Labour's home affairs spokesman, Doug Hoyle, also said the changes should be

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Wirral confounds media snobs

As the political focus sharpens on Wirral South, Anthony **Bevins** looks at prospects for the coming by-election

Parts of the Wirral South con-stituency are so well heeled that Conservative cabinet ministers have tended to campaign there to lessen the culture shock of a visit to one of the country's most deprived regions.

There is an awful southern snobbery in some of the media coverage of the Wirral South byelection, with reporters who should know better showing surprise that there is affinence, as well as industrial effluent, on Merseyside.

Unemployment in Heswall, one of the five wards which make up the constituency and which overlooks the delightful Dee estuary and the mountains of North Wales, was only 4.7 per cent in December. In another ward, Clatterbridge, it was just nudging over 5 per cent. But they sit uncomfortably check by jowl with places that are steeped

in the most abject poverty. Unemployment in Bidston, at the northern end of the peninsula, was 25.9 per cent in December, with more than four out of 10 men out of work. In the Bromborough ward, 17 per cent of men were out of work. and in the other two wards of the constituency, Bebington and Eastham, male unemployment topped 10 per cent.

It is against that background that the European Union has included the Wirral in the Obiective One status - the highest rating for regional aid and assistance. According to the local council: "Wirral is the only metropolitan borough in the UK to have its own office in Brussels" - it knows where its bread is buttered.

The local Labour briefing notes say: "Wirral South is a and Shell also have large-scale

Unemployment (Deceaverage 6.8 per cent.

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INVESTED

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6.22**

6.17**

5.84**

5.37**

6.00

5.60

5.50

6.22**

5.84**

5.46**

Annually 7.00% Tax-free

5.6544

4.60

4.51

3.93 - 3.14

3.68

3.60

5.08

4.40

4.98

4.94

4.67

4.29

5.12

4.80

4.40

4.37



House calls: The Labour candidate Ben Chapman getting out and about in Wirrai South yesterday

local investment. But the poli-

tics of the people of Merseyside has been swinging left for many years. Before he died last year,

Wirral South's Conservative

MP, Barry Porter, told friends

ing commuters were moving

into his patch and threatening

The area that once returned

Selwyn Lloyd, Geoffrey Howe

and Linda Chalker to the

his majority.

of his concern that Labour-vot-

predominantly prosperous scat containing some of Merseyside's most desirable commuter suburbs: 53 per cent of housing is detached whilst 60 per cent of its working population are A or B grades; 45 per cent of households have two or more

The perception of Wirral South wealth is also highlighted by the strong local presence of the Unilever Group, and the delightful industrial village of Port Sunlight, built for Lever's soap workers in 1888. Vauxhall

C&G Investment Rates

Effective from 5 February 1997

House of Commons seems to be slipping fast. The Labour vote in the 1983 general election was 23.7 per cent of votes cast in Wirral Contrasting face of a key constituency South; in 1987, it was 28 per cent; and in 1992, it moved up ent (December '96); male 10.3 per cent; female, 3.2 per cent; to 34.6 per cent. In last year's average 6.8 per cent.
Owner occupation: 81.2 per cent (national average 66.3 per cent)
Council housing: 11.3 per cent (national average 24.3 per cent)
Cur. ownership: 74.4 per cent (national average 24.3 per cent)
Over-40a: 49.8 per cent (national average 45.3 per cent)
Five or more GCSE perses (A-C) in 1998: Wirst Grammar School for
Girls 97 per cent; Wirst Grammar School for Boys 94 per cent; Wirst
Local Education Authority 44 per cent; England 45 per cent
Local Education Authority 44 per cent; England 45 per cent
Job Centre offices (Beblington): part-time runsing-care assistance £2.50
per hour; part-time cleaners/cooks/snop assistance £3.50 per hour;
professional/managerial jobs 46.1 per cent (national average 37 per cent)
Ethnic-minority population: 0.9 per cent local elections, Labour polled 37.5 per cent in Wirral South wards - just 0.8 percentage points ahead of the Tories.

£100,000 or more Annually

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£100,000 or more

£25,000-£99,999

\$10,000-\$74,999

\$25,000 or more

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under TESSA rules Annually

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\$5,000-\$9,999

£1,000 or more

£5,000-£9,999

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Nevertheless, it is highly likely that if Labour wins the seat in a 27 February by-election, it will return to the Todes in a general election. In the meantime, however, the one issue that the

4.70

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451**

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0.99**

Annually 5.00% Tax-free

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4.51*4. 3.60

4.31** 3.45

3.93** 3.14

6.50% Tax-free

Annually

Annually

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Monthly

. 3.76

3.68

3.68

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206

1.56

0.79

3,52

3.68

3.20

Conservatives are clutching at in the hope of saving themselves in the by-election is education. Visiting the constituency yes-terday, Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, again warned of

the threat to local grammar schools from a party led by people who wanted choice and selection for their own children while wanting to deny it to the children of others. There are ernment would get rid of them.

seven secondary schools in Wirral South, and only two of them are grammar. It is entirely possible that the parental hal-lot promised by a Labour gov-

Photograph: David Rose

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS SCORING THE EXCHANGES



3/10

3/10

The exchange today was a no-contest; the issue of head-teachers' qualifications, and the differences in emphasis between the Education Minister and the Prime Minister is either a slow-

Unless Blair has a grand plan for which Major's answer yesterday laid the foundation, he old nothing worthy of many points. But, as last week, he did at least allow more backbanchen

Labour has plans for a compulsory trational competence quantization for heart-backers. Employment Secretary Gillan Shaphard indicated earlier yesterday that she was opposed to this, while Major appeared not to injus roled the idea out. Blair's single question yesterday sacured Major's assurance that indeed he had not. At best, this revealed a potential untive split. Not a particularly impressive ser

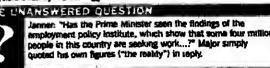
THEMES OF THE DAY "Spending of Liberal Democrat and Labour local authorities (Andrew C, Mid Kent).

-Unemployment figures (Greville Jamer, Lab, Leicester West)
-Times on air travel (Dennis MacShane, Lab, Rotherham)
-Curraccy stability (Sir Pater Tapsell, C, Lindsey East)



DENNIS SKINNER (Lab. Bostower) was at the Major quoted straight to his fact while Major quoted employment figures. "Fiddled!" he valled leasily, while chewing gam and being held back by his col

could be set aside to debate what Instinct to raise taxes.



Major: "My Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor has had from the Shadow Chancellor the most remarkable endorsement of his economic policies that any Chancellor has ever recieved. On every single tax decision, on every single spending decision, this year and next year, the Shadow Chancellor agrees that my Rt Hon Friend is Infaltible."

Lawrence: Spent a long time eaking Major to "congratulate a firm called Technic Holdings in my constituency". Many members found comic irony in the fact that the company specialises in re-treeds for worn-out tyres.



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Five-year-olds to face tests on the three Rs

Education Correspondent

Children startiog primary school in September will be tested during their first term on the three Rs and on skills such as tying their shoe laces, in the pilot year of national tests for five-year-olds.

Schools across the country were yesterday invited to participate in the scheme, which will prepare the ground for compulsory national assess-ment at five from September 1998. The programme will slot the last piece into the Government's testing jigsaw, which already includes national tests for pupils at seven, 11 and 14.

Announcing the pilot scheme yesterday, Gillian Shephard. the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the oew "baseline assessments" would help primary schools to identify children's learning needs and measure progress. But although she stressed

the importance of gauging the

Predict words and phrases in

sounds of words as a teacher

Write their own name legibly and correctly without help, using capital and lower case

a familiar book during a reading session with a teacher. Recognise the Initial

names pictured objects.

READING

WRITING

MATHS

success of schools in "adding value", Mrs Shephard refused to rule out future publication of league tables of national test results for seven-year-olds.

She said: "Certainly it would be my desire to be as open as possible about the measuremeot of the output of the education system, so that would be a longer-term aim."

Teachers have resisted school performance tables - already in use for GCSE and A-levels and being published for the first time for primary schools next month
- on the grounds that they offer bald results without revealing the distance travelled by pupils. Ministers have no plans at present to publish tables for five-year-olds.

Consultation of schools and parents by the Government's curriculum advisers revealed widespread support for baseline assessmeot, which is also supported by Labour.

However, parents were keen that children's oral skills and personal and social develop-

What every child should know Write out numbers to ten without copying. Begin to use the language involved in addition and subtraction,

using worksheets of sums

Illustrated with buttons (illustrated below). PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Show a generally happy attitude to coming to school, with no need for support from others. Contribute confidently and enthusiastically to class discussions. Concentrate on

tasks such as tying laces and

washing hands.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING Take turns in discussion and listen to others without a task such as drawing for at least ten minutes without supervision. Perform daily

Count out objects, and recognise numbers from sheets of numerals up to ten.

000

assessments issued by the School Curriculum and Assessmeot Authority, developed after trials in 360 schools, include sums using pictures of huttons, sound-recognition exercises using pictures, such as cars and birds, and tests on identifying written numbers. Children will also be assessed on practical and personal skills, such as washing hands and abil-

ity to share in a group.

However, unlike the national tests for older children, baseline assessments will not be identical across the country. Local schemes, already used by half of all primary schools, will he permitted. But they will have to meet strict criteria in a national framework, now going nut for final consultation.

emphasis. Draft examples of the

Announcing the pilot year yesterday, Mrs Shephard pre-dicted that a uniform, natioowide testing scheme would eventually emerge, hut added: We should not de-skill, or devalue, the perfectly good schemes already existing."

The assessments, expected to take no more than 20 minutes per child, should not overburden teachers with extra work, she said. The Government will provide £8.5m to fund training and support of teachers in carrying out the tests, to be completed within a child's first term at primary school, after around seven weeks. Schools will he expected to involve parents closely, and will pass on results confidentially, in the form of a score for each element or an overall result.

The tests are also inteoded to help schools identify childreo with special educational oeeds and assess those for whom English is a second language.

The National Union of Teachers yesterday raised concerns over the decisioo to record test results in oumber form. The unioo also called for the £8.5m funding to be devolved to schools to pay for supply cover during the assess-Pontetract; Dene Magna Community School
Dene Magna, Glor: Dan County Fligh School

the park lane weekend

the mayfair weekend

the kensington weekend

the regents park weekend

the hyde park weekend

the wembley weekend

the ascot weekend

the gatwick weekend

the hornchurch weekend

the southampton weekens

the portsmouth weekend

the new forest weekend

the hampshire weekend

the basingstoke weekend

the newbury weekend

the stansted weekend

A STANDUTH WEST AND WALES

the bath weekend

the wiltshire weekend

the wye valley weekend

the shakespeare country weekend

the heart of england weekend

the buckinghamshire weekend

the coventry weekend

the glasgow weekend

the edinburgh weekend

the manchester weekend

the leeds weekend

the pennine weekend

the yorkshire weekend

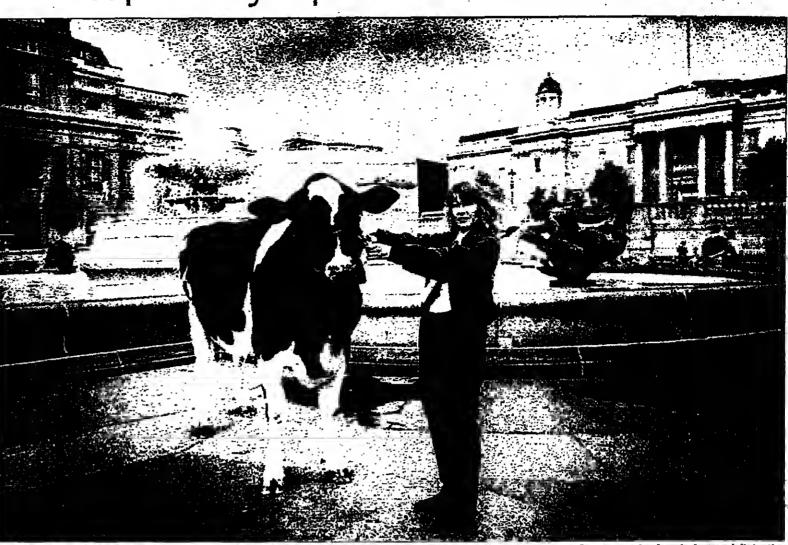
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Thise quotied is per person per night sharing a trensiduable room including breaking at the Patris Hotel, Homeburch of the Bingway Hotel, Basingspoke. Offer is which from 23rd January to 31st March 1997 for weekend story on a room and breaking bean, thating Weekends available between Thurs - Son includes (Thursday arther require Saturday right story) One and two night story also available Rates subject to availability. This offer carnot be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer or decount. The third night for

the swansea weekend

the sherlock holmes weekend

A capital day trip for a Friesian called Flo



Hoofing it: Prize-winning Friesian cow Flo - full name Cardsland Eclipse Flo - seeing the sights in Trafalgar Square yesterday during a visit to the capital with Sue Cope, daughter of the farmer who owns Flo. Her father Tom and his brother Andy are selling off the herd from their farm in Lichfield. Staffordshire, and the inclusion of Fio - a two-time supreme champion - is expected to ensure a large turnout at the auction on 6 May Photograph: PA

Woodhead's list reveals top schools

Education Editor

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, yesterday commeoded the following educational establishments for offering good education. All the 63 secondary schools have received outstanding inspection reports and some have had excellent GCSE results over a number of years. Others are improving in difficult circumstances.

alphabetically, are: SECONIDARY SCHOOLS: Andershow High School, Manchester; Bishop Challener Sec-ondary School, Bashquater; Breats and Cons-

£95.00

£87.50

£72.00

£57.50 £49.50

£49.00 £46.00

£46.00

£40.00

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Major lays down gauntlet for his enterprise culture

Prime Minister renews attack on social chapter

ing "overblown language". Britain bas created 900,000

oew jobs in the past four years,

The Prime Minister insisted n was in Britain's interest to see Europe succeed. But, he argued,

it could only do so if it accept-ed lessons from Britain's "en-

"I believe Britain cao help shape a Europe in which busi-

oess can prosper. We are willing to play that role, it is in our

interest to do so - and in Eu-

rope's interest as well."
Mr Major's Brussels visit was

as part of the Government's

rope "to Europe".
The decision to focus his at-

tack on the social chapter and

terprise model".

The speech, to European businessmen, invited by the right-wing European Policy Fo-rum, focused solely on issue of

competitivness and job cre-ation, avoiding the more con-tentious subjects of monetary

union or European reform.

Seeking to persuade Euro-peans that Britain's attitude to

Europe is oot all oegative, the Prime Minister argued that En-rope should find a new goal,

now that the European Union

had ensured that war was no

project of Europe has won," said Mr Major. Now Europe faced

Peace is the prize that the

longer thinkable.

Sarah Helm

Entering the lion's den, John Major last night chose Brussels as the venue for a fierce attack oo the European "social model", proclaiming Britain as the

"enterprise capital" of Europe.
Mr Major attacked the social chapter as a "Irojan Horse", congratulating himself on his refusal to sign the legislation at Maastricht. "The British Government has made up its mind. Our enterprise economy is not negotiable," he said.

his first trip to the capital for nearly two years, and was staged At the same time, Mr Major condemned those who described Britain as a "sweat-shop economy", accusing them of us-

drive to take its message on Eu-Government outlay the European "social model"

was clearly designed to put the Labour Party on the defensive. Labour has indicated it will sign op to the social chapter if Mr Major also used his Brussels speech as a chance to renew his attack on the EU 48-hour working week directive. However, other member states. where most workers already work far less than 48 hours, have

Tirade seen as election propaganda

attention in the continental press, and was unlikely to attract much interest in other European capitals, writes Sarah in work are often lower.

ageoda of every member state, as governments battle with unemployment and welfare reform. Other European leaders admit that there are lessons to be learned from Britain aboot flexible labour markets and lowering social costs. Germany, in particular, is aware its high tax and social costs are deter-

ring inward investment. However, Mr Major's combative approach to European integration, and the tion in Brussels with the "British problem", mean the Prime Minis- unemployed? ter's ability to

partners is at an all-time low. The speech was viewed as domestic political propaganda, oot as an attempt to promote a positive European debate. More interest might have been sparked had Mr Major chosen to address monetary union or

institutional reform. Instead, the Prime Minister congratulated the Government oo its success as the "enterprise capital" of Europe. But he did not say Britain comes ninth out of 15 in terms of productivity. Britaio's good employment record, compared to Germany or France can in large part be explained by the fact that Britain is oow at a different stage of the economic cycle, say partners no the continent.

Brussels speech received little the value of Britain's flexible labour markets, but they point nut that Britain's education and training standards for those

Mr Major was widely viewed His themes of job creation to have damaged his argument elling a dishonest attack on the Social Chapter and its effect on European employment.

Legislation under the Social Chapter has been limited to new rules governing workers' coun-cils and legislation on parental leave - hardly the job-destroy-ing demons Mr Major claims. "Mr Major's description of

relation to what we know as the Social Chapter. Is he saying is he seriously saying the provigrowing frustra- it is the reason sions we have infor 18 million the Social Chapter are the reason for Europe's 18 millioo unem-ployed?" asked

one Commission official. Neither the European Commission or the member states wish to bring in any major new changes under Social Chapter, recognising that industry and businesses could not bare the cost. The Commission has recently delayed the publication of a White Paper which would extend the 48-hour maximum

working week rules. In his speech, Mr Major in-sists that Britain has succeeded because it has avoided the "European social model". But other member states are not following the British model of total deregulation. The Dutch, in particular, believe good social provisioo helps stimulates ecocomic activity and prosperity.

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Point of principle: Mr Major said in his Brussels speech that Europe can succeed, but only if it accepts lessons from Britain's economic model

a "ocw historic challenge - how to keep companies competitetive and our people in work in the face of global competition. Prosperity – that aim which every politician shares – depends oo winning in that world." Mr Major then attacked his

European partners for pursuing policies which create unemployment. Many countries are now having to make "Her-culean efforts" to bring public spending under control, which Britain did long ago, he said. European over-regulation is

damaging growing industry, he said. "Over-regulation doesn't work. And, as a result, nor do

millions of Europeans."
Focusing on the social chapter. Mr Major asked: "How is job creation helped by ceotralised, legally binding agree-

ments between employers and trade unions? By mandatory works councils? Compulsory parental leave? What jobs does

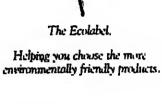
that create? What orders does it win? The Prime Minister argued that Britain has carried out

deregulation without threatening social provision or equal op-

portunity.

He also insisted that claims that social legislation is necessury to protect workers from job insecurity is "simplistic and





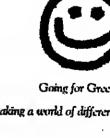
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Bhutto routed as cynical Pakistani's turn to Sharif

Lahore '

Thousands of Pakistan Muslim League supporters started setting off firecrackers and firing off celebratory gun shots as soon as the polling booths closed, but even they seemed stunned by the size of their winning margin when the final elec-

Mohammed Nawaz Sharif looked poised to resume as Prime Minister

if the government wins a vote of confidence in 10 days. He secured a twothirds majority with 127 seats. trouncing the former premier Benazir Bhutto whose Pakistan People's Party came up with a paltry 15 seats.

We are the clear winners and our party is in power." Mr Sharif rasped, his voice hoarse from the campaign. "Elections were categorically fair tion tally came in yesterday.

The wealthy industrialist Mian

and free. We did expect a comfortable majority. I have no doubt that and free. We did expect a comfortwe can last out our tenure."

Sbarif promises to overhaul Pak-

ed deficits before Ms Bbutto's latest term was cut short by two years. His priorities also extend to maintaining lnw and order, which seriously declined during a spree of killings and custodial deaths under Ms Bhutto.

runaway inflation and unprecedent-

No alliances are necessary for Mr Sharif to form a government, and he has pledged to avoid the rancour that marred his relations with Ms Bhutto in the past. Mr Sharif was groomed

by General Ziaul Haq, who ordered League of adding votes, but she the hanging of Ms Bhutto's father, seemed resigned to defeat. Both she Zufilkar Ali Bhutto, twenty years ago.

Turn-out in the major cities was dismal on Monday, barely touching 26 per cent, according to the President, Farooq Leghari. But after tallying the votes of the tribal groups in the north-who were enthusiastic about voting for the first time - and in rural Punjab, it rose to 34 per cent.

Ms Bbutto was expected to seize on this and brand the election fraudulent. She did accuse the Muslim

and her mother won their seats and will lead the opposition. "The country needs stability for economic improvement," Ms Bbutto said. "We will not launch an agitation against this engineered result." Independent foreign officials who monitored the

polls reported no major discrepancies.
The former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan, feared as an unpredictable third force, failed to win a single seat. However, he did out-poll

porn actress who was also relying on er celebrity to attract attention. Mr Khan's Tehreek-i-Insaaf Party. launched last April, introduced a moral crusade to the election but was

viewed as naive. Cynical voters appear to have cast egainst Ms Bhutto rather than for her rival. To balance out a powerful president, most seem to prefer a professional politician like Mr Sharif who has a track record of cutting backroom deals and doling out favours.



Benazir Bhutto: Conceded need for political stability

Milosevic acts to resolve election crisis

Emma Daly Beigrade

In an apparent surrender to the popular demand expressed for 78 days by huge street protests, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia yesterday ordered his government to recognise opposition victories in local elections.

As the news was relayed by the leaders of the Zajedno opposition coalition to a crowd of about 0,000 gathered in Republic Square, more than 1,000 riot police stood menacingly by - painful re-minders of the president's willingness to use violence to maintain his hold on power. The crowd cried "Victory!" in response to news that Mr Milosevic had written to his prime minister seeking a resolution to the crisis, but opposition leaders were more cautious, inured to the delaying tactics adopted by Mr Milosevic since the vote on 17 November last year.

"We have not seen the letter and we will not talk about it." Vuk Draskovic, an opposition leader, said disdainfully. Zoran Djindjic, the most effective of the three Zajedno leaders, warned that the opposition will continue marching each day until all its demands are met. "Milosevic has recognised the result he should have accepted on 17 November, and since then many things have happened to deepen our political crisis." Mr Djindjic said. "This will resolve one part of the crisis, but not all,

and we will continue our protests." The opposition also wants to see the state media, particularly television, freed from its function as a propaganda machine and to have officials who overstepped the mark fired. In that context. Mr Draskovic told the crowd he wanted to know who had ordered riot police to beat up demonstrators and passers-by in Belgrade on Sunday and Monday.

Mr Milosevic referred only to the lo-cal elections. According to Tanjug, the official news agency, the president informed the prime minister, Mirko Marjanovic, that "electoral disputes ... have considerably hurt our country both internally and on an international level and that it is high time to put an end to the problem".

The president could have resolved the crisis at any time in the past 78 days by allowing opposition councillors to take their seats in the 14 town councils won hy Zajedno. He has chosen instead to request parliamentary approval of a "special law" designating as final the electoral results ratified by the Organisation for Security

and Co-operation in Europe. This is meant to imply that Serbia is acting more to appease the international community than bowing to pressure from the streets. "I would like to stress that the state's interest in promoting relations be-tween our country and the OSCE and the international community as a whole far

Bulgaria sets poll date

Sofia (Reuters) - Bulgaria's ruling Socialists agreed yesterday to hold early elections in April, defusing a tense showdown with the opposition after 30 days of anti-government protests, a joint statement said.

The statement by the Socialists and opposition parties said that they had agreed that President Petar Stoyanov "should set early general elections in the second 10 days of April".

surpasses the importance of any number of council seats," the president wrote. If this were true, Mr Milosevic would have implemented the election results when the OSCE ratified them in December. But while Serbia bas bowed to international pressure in the past over the war in Bosnia, Mr Milosevic does not want to be seen giving in to the ordinary people airing their grievances on the street. Nor is this the first time he has prom to recognise the electoral victory.

"I will not believe this until I see Zajedno take their seats and form Belgrade's new city council," said one sceptical local journalist. Vesna Pesic, the third Zajedno leader, told the crowd, the regime has blown hot and cold throughout the crisis. "They recognise the results, then they beat us up. Now it's hot and cold at the same time: they recognise the results and beat us at the same time."



Big issue: A Taiwanese child stands dwarfed by a metal sculpture of an ox and a farmer, erected in the middle of the capital, Taipei. The temporary installation has been put up to mark the start of the Chinese lunar year of the ox, which begins on Friday

TANZANI

Zairean troops panic as rebels seize key port James Roberts and agencies

Zairean rebels yesterday seized the port of Kalemie, an important stronghold in the mineralrich southern province of Shaba, and home town of the rebel leader Laurent Kabila. The seizure of Kalemie, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, brings to seven the number of cities the rebels control.

A spokesman for Zaire's min-

the port had fallen, and said the rebels were heading towards Moba 110 miles (175km) to the south. Controlling the port cities provides the rebels of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) with easy access to arms shipments and the central Kasai provinces, which are also

opposition strongholds. The rebels' success raised speculation that they might try

to press on to Lubumbashi. Zaire's second largest city and capital of Shaba province.

Thierry Mucmgwe, director of the government mineral control office in the southern provincial capital said that on hearing that Kalemie was in rebel hands, Zaircan army officers based in Luhumhashi evacuated their goods and families to Kinshasa

over the weckend. Rebels were also fighting gov-ernment troops outside Watsa,

which until its fall last week was a centre for mercenaries recruited by Kinshasa for its counter-offensive. "It's a war being fought on three fronts. It is a strategy to tax the Zairean army and its mercenaries," one

observer said. Meanwhile, Emmanuel Ndahiro, chief adviser to Major-General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's vice-president and military strongman, warned that Africa's latest war would not end if Kin-

shasa brought in troops from French-speaking Chad, Moroc-co and Togo. "The involvement of foreign troops in Zaire will only complicate the war," he said. President Mohutu Sese Seko, who has ruled Zaire since 1965.

ended his convalescence from an operation for prostate cancer on Monday to fly to Morocco for talks with King Hassan. Morocco aided Mr Mohutu in crushing rebels in Shaba in the 1970s. He was next expected to visit Egypt.

significant shorts

German horror at crash of nuclear-waste train

German ecology groups reacted with horror after a traincarrying nuclear waste detailed in France, saying it proved what they had always said - that nuclear shipments were potentially lethal and should be stopped. The opposition Social Democrats and the Greens urged Bonn to give a public explanation and take urgent measures to prevent. more accidents. French and German officials said it was not clear how the accident, just over the German border in France, happened, but gave assurances there had been no leakage of radioactivity. The train was en route to the Sellafield processing plant in Cumbria. Reuter - Bonn

Move to ban death penalty

The American Bar Association will urge Congress and state legislatures to ban the death penalty until its fair use can be assured. Bucking opposition from the Clinton administration and the 370,000-lawyer group's own president, the ABA's policy-making House of Delegates voted 280-119 in favour of a capital-punishment moratorium. The New York lawyer Ron Tahak, an architect of the measure, said: "It's an historic vote. This tells the nation that the death penalty, as it is now administered, is systematically unfair."

AP - San Antonio systematically unfair.

Albanian fund goes broke

The operator of another high-risk investment fund said he. was broke, and Albania's president said the company's accounts and property had been impounded. An announcement on radio and television by Fitim Gerkhalliu, of the Gjallica fund, confirmed the suspicions of many people, including those who had invested thousands of dollars in it. The failure of Gjallica to pay out on schedulc last month spurred violence by angry crowds. The fund had promised to start paying again on Thursday but vesterday
Mr Gerxhalliu said he was broke.

AP - Tirana

Freeze agreed on Nazi loot

The US, Britain and France had agreed to freeze distribution of gold bars worth \$68m (£42m) that the Nazis looted from European central banks, the French Foreign Ministry said. The gold, slored in the vaults of the Federal Reserve Bank in New York and the Bank of England, could form the core of a fund to compensate Holocaust victims, US officials said. "There is agreement among the three partners. Now a formula must be established, which, on the one hand, would be legally sound and on the other hand, would be worked out together with the groups concerned, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said. AP - Paris

Boy shoots bishop dead

A guaman and a boy opened fire outside a cathedral in the southern Philippines, killing a Roman Catholic bishop and a bystander and wounding five people in a suspected. terrorist attack. Monsignor Pedro Quitorio, spokesman for the Catholic Bisbops' Conference of the Philippines, said Bisbop Benjamin de Jesus, 56, was shot six times outside Mount Carmel Cathedral by two attackers, including a boy appearing to be 10 to 15 years old.

'Hitman' found strangled

The body of of a Russian wanted in Moscow over the murder of four policemen has been recovered by Greek authorities in a joint operation with Russian security officers. Alexander Solonik, an ex-KGB officer and suspected contract killer, was found strangled an Sunday in Athens. Solonik, 37, was wanted in Russia for allegedly killing four police officers in Moscow and injuring another.

Iran quakes kill three

Two earthquakes killed three people and injured 10 in north-east Iran. The official IRNA agency said the tremors. one registering 5.4 on the Richter scale and the other 6.1. occurred near Esfarayen and Bojnourd, about 580km (360) miles) north-east of Tehran.

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There's not a lot of coffee in Brazil this year

as farmers are ground down, reports Phil **Davison**

Brace yourselves for a surge in the price of coffee. And you can blame it on Colombian cocaine producers, a plague of insects, Brazilian showers or financial speculators.

Experts predict your coffee break is about to cost you considerably more within the next few days as supermarkets stick higher price tags on coffee beans, both ground and instant. They are distinctly less clear about the reason.

What we do know is that the price that the big roasting corporations pay to producers bas rocketed 40 per cent since December and is about to be reflected on your supermarket shelves. The Dutch company Douwe Egberts yesterday be-came the first of the major roasters to warn retailers of an impending increase. It said it would raise retail prices by about 7 per cent on average for

a 250-gramme pack. Why? Take your pick. One factor is certainly bad weather during the recent harvesting season in Central and South America - particularly the world's top two producers, Brazil and Colombia. It is likely to cut their exports and further reduce dwindling stocks in the consumer nations.

Then there are the reports of a pending strike by Colombia's coffice farmers. They are angered by the fact that the world price rise has oot been passed oo to them by their National Coffee Federation. The gov-ernment has also refused their



Another strike threatened by Colombia's public workers next Tuesday could also disrupt supplies. Previous strikes, by port workers last month and truck drivers previously, led to panic buying by roasters and

pushed up prices. Colombia, whose coffce exports make up around onequarter of the world total in dollar terms, considers its green coffee beans, of the arabica vaColombia Milds, to be the best in the world. That, of course, would be considered sacrilege by the Jamaican growers of Blue Mountain coffee

On his farm, the Hacienda La Colina in Pereira, Colombia, grower Fabio Zuluaga ontes another problem. "An experienced coffee bean picker earns around twice the minimum wage during the September-November picking season," he

ers can now earn five times that much by picking coca leaves for the narco-traffickers."

Coca leaf, the basis for cocaine, used to be grown mainly in Peru and Bolivia. To cut costs and beat drug-interdiction efforts, however, the big Colombian cocaine cartels oow finance coca leaf growing in remote areas of Colombia, tempting coffee bean pickers

away. Like other Colombian grow-

ers, Mr Zujuaga bas also been battling a plague of insects known as broca, barely visible to the human eye but deadly to the coffee bean. In the barn where he senarates his beans according to quality, he has posted a warning placard which reads: "Don't leave ripe or

over-ripe fruit near your coffee

fields. It feeds the broca. Attack tively-low 27 million hags. A hag weighs 60kg or 132 pounds. the broca before it destroys your harvest." 'Coffee prices don't always

conditions, however," said Mar-tin Wattam of the London-ED and F Man International tradehouse, says prices are also based International Coffee being affected by reports that Brazil's 1997 crop may be sig-Organisation. "It's a highly unnificantly below earlier esti-mates, following beavy rains last predictable market. At present there's something of a shortfall week. Some revised estimates in supply since the Association of Cuffee Producing Countries speak of Brazilian production of is curtailing exports to bolster only 18 million hags, compared prices."
"Don't forget, when you talk with last year's already rela-

about adverse weather and impending strikes, it's in the interests of the producers to talk attracts more funds." Neil Rosser, of London's move in response to the basic

standing guard to case of theft from a coffee plantation in Central America. Like Brazil, the region anticipates e poor harvest Photograph: AP harvest

Bean counting

The leading coffee producers, in descending order, are: Brazii, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Vietnam.

The top consumers are: the US, Germany, Japan, France and Italy, Britain is sixth, consuming 2.42 million 60kg (132 pound) bags

up prices," said another London-based expert. "It's not al-

ways easy to distinguish." On the sidelines of a meeting in Bali, Indonesia, this week of the 61-nation ICO, grouping producers and consumers, the nrganisation's Executive Director, Celsius Lodder, admitted to Reuters there was some confusion. "The fundamentals are not explaining price variations 100 per cent," he said. "The fundamentals of demand,

supply and stocks, weather conditions ... elements you use to analyse the market, they are not explaining price movement. He appeared to be referring to speculation in the coffee futures market.

The answer may lie in the financial markets, where coffee is just another way to make money, "We've seen a lot of fund buying," said Mr Rosser. People who maybe used to dealing in foreign exchange are new investing in coffee. That, in turn, has a snowball effect and

Australia takes first steps towards vote for republic But several prominent Liberal Howard told parliament. Republicans

Robert Milliken Sydney

A "people's convention" of a sort not

seen in Australia for a century will be set up later this year to plan the constitutional transition to a republic. After debating republicanism for the past five years, Australians yesterday learned that concrete steps are to be taken to allow them a vote on

Ironically, it was the monarchist Prime Mmister, John Howard, wbo took the mitiative.

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Mr Howard told parliament in Canberra yesterday that a convention on constitutional change will be beld in the capital in November or December. Half the delegates would be clected in a popular ballot and an "appropriate proportion" will be the centenary of the federation.

abolishing the Queen as head of state. Aborigines and young people. The Ironically, it was the monarchist rest will be appointed by the federal

If recent opinioo polls are any guide, the convention may decide that there is enough support to move on to a referendum on replacing the Queen with an Australian president. If that happens, Australia may become a republic by 2000, or at least by 2001,

The forthcoming coovertion echoes the convections which were held in the 1890s to draw up the constitution, and which placed the British monarch at its bead.

Mr Howard surprised everyone with his announcement. As leader of the Liberal-National coalition, Mr Howard has opposed republicanism. The opposition Labour Party bas adopted a republic as official policy.

MPs have since come out as republicans and an opinioo poll in December showed for the first time that there was enough popular support to

carry a refereodum on the issue. "It remains very much my view ... that the existing constitution has worked very effectively and has

argued that it was not a question of wholesale changes to the constitution, but simply one of making the head of state an Australian.

Malcolm Turnbull, a Sydney lawyer and merchant banker, who is chairman of the Australian Republican Movement, said yesterday: "Support played a very significant role in has been growing but republicans are delivering stable government." Mr going to have to fight hard."



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Holocaust adds twist to Albright's gripping tale

The personal story of Madeleine Korbel Alhright was already arresting; the Czech girl whose family fled Prague and the Com-munist coup of 1948 for Ameri-ca, where she would rise to become the first woman Secretary of State. Now there is more. Her origins, it seems, are not Catholic but Jewish, and three of her grandparents perished in the

These revelations, which have apparently surprised Ms Albright almost as much as anyone else, came in yesterday's Washington Post, the fruit of research by the paper into her background in Czechoslovakia, which her parents left after the Nazi occupation in 1939. The Korbel family spent the war in London before returning home in 1945. Three years later they left for the US, for good.

The Post said German, Czech including transportation lists to Auschwitz, suggested at least a dozen of her relatives were victims



of the Holocaust, including three grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Ms Albright, 59, was never told as a child, and her parents subsequently only said that these family members had died

"during the course of the war".

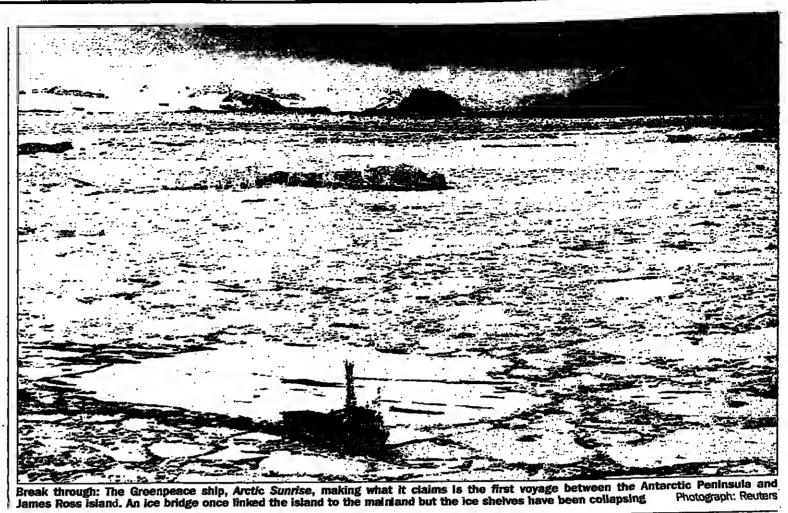
Had the Korbels not left
Prague in 1939, they probably would have met the same fate. As it was, Madeleine Korbel was brought up as a Catholic, before becoming an Episcopalian. "I have always thought of myself

as a Czechoslovak Catholic," she

new information was "fairly compelling." She planned to conduct further research herself: "Obviously it is a very personal matter for my family and brother and sis-ter and children. The only thing I have to go by is what my mother and father told me." They have died - her father Josef, himself a former diplomat, in 1977, and her mother Mandula in 1989.

Ms Albright is not the first Secretary of State to have fled tyranny in Europe. In 1938, a 15-year-old German Jewish boy named Henry Alfred Kissinger came to America with his family to escape Hitler's persecution. Those origins did not prevent him brokering the Israeli-Arah truce after the 1973 war.

But as a woman, and as chief foreign policy aide of a President reckoned as pro-Israeli as any in recent times, she may have greater problems in the region. Hardly had she heen nominated last December than sections of the Arab press were portraying her as a card-carrying member of the US



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Breathless Kohl must wait for new palace

Imre Karacs

In a grand gesture celebrating the higgest project in Europe. Chancellor Helmut Kohl overturned two spadefuls of Berlin soil yesterday. This is an historic day for Berlin and for our country," Mr Kohl declared, still puffing from the exertion.

It was indeed an historic moment, at least as redolent in symbolism as the spade-work of other politicians who had already laid their foundation

stones in the new capital. In recent months Germany Helmut Kohl: Berlin move has witnessed the uncloaking of the Reichstag and its disapthe Reichstag and its disap-pearance behind a forest of scaf-folding. Potsdamer Platz has grown by 20 stories and finance minister Theo Waigel has tak-en charge of Göring's Luft-waffe building, designed hy Nazis for Nazis. But yesterday Mr Kohl dug for the crown jewel in his em-pire – the chancellery he hopes will be his home. Better late than never covics muttered. For

than never, cynics muttered. For Mr Kohl's dream palace, a ha-cienda by the river Spree, will not be ready in time for the dawn of the Berlin republic.

The plans were ready long ago, but the Chancellor kept making alterations. As a result, the country's seat of power will still be a building site when MPs and the ministries move into their plush new surroundings. The move to Berlin is officially scheduled to take place in May 1999 with the cer-

emonial reopening of the Re-

ichstag, but the Chancellor will have to slum it for at least sev-en months in Erich Honecker's spartan State Council huilding. But when the new chancellery is apened, it will be fit for the most powerful man nr woman in Europe. The archi-tects, Berliners Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank, have created a white cube 120ft tall, with

310 offices, 13 winter gardens,

a private footbridge across the

Spree, and a small park.
The Chancellor's office will have views over the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and the Tiergarten. The entire complex is to be powered by solar energy and heated with veg-etable oil. All this for a mere DM400m (£156m) – a snip compared with the roughly DM200bn that will have been sunk into Berlin by taxpayers and private investors by the turn of the millennium.

At least the chancellery does mark a new beginning, unlike the controversial choices for some of the other arms of the government. It can he argued



← A building fit for the most powerful person in Europe 🤊

that the Reichstag was never the mother of German democracy. Debate has also been raging about the wisdom of converting the Prussian House of Lords into the Bundesrat, the second chamber of parliament.

The chancellery is to be erected in the former no-man's land between East and West. The mines have gone, but the whole area remains boobytrapped.

But other ambitions have been circumscribed by economic reality, thwarting plans to convert the square miles between West Berlin's Tiergarten and Alexanderplatz at the eastern end of the Unter den Linden into a vast government theme park.

of the concrete jungle in the East have had to be postponed until well into next century because of a shortage of public funds. Some of the infrastructure projects linked to the move are also in danger for the same

ning north-south under the Tiergarten and the Reichstag began last week, but the high-speed rail links projecting from the station at the edge of the government quarter may never materialise.

Meanwhile, unemployment in Berlin stands at 15 per cent, soup kitchens proliferate and the city's universities are halving their intake next year because ni lack of money. The new capital will be a symbol of Mr Kohl's long reign, though perhaps not in the way he had

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Jailing asylun seekers flouts human rights

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Tales . Company of the Maria 1979 (1964)

Plans for the reconstruction

Work on the rail tunnel run-

the leader page

Mental illness needs a broader treatment

ental illness" doesn't exist.
No, that is not to recycle some fashionable Sixties nostrum. It is to say we use the phrase to cover a variety of quite different medical conditions responding to oo single set of therapies.

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Mental illness demands the attention of no one set of professionals. In seven years the schizophrenic Christopher Clunis was seen by four teaching hospitals, three local psychiatric services, one probation hostel, two prisons, five social services departments, one sheltered housing scheme and five bed-and-breakfast placements. Bad enough: but manic depression is as prevalent as schizo-phrenia; it is just less visible. Up to 30 per cent of those aged 80-plus suffer from dementia, while up to one in five young people suffers from some kind of severe mental problem or disorder. And most mentally ill people spend most of their lives in our midst, in "the community", albeit often out of sight.

All that is to make the point that there can oever be a definitive national scheme or system for the treatment of mental illness or the care of the mentally ill. Much more can and should be done to co-ordinate the flow of fuods into general health and social services budgets intended to provide for the mentally ill. The care of the mentally ill demonstrates a pathology of government in the UK - "departmentalism" and the refusal of professionals and specialised policy-makers to surrender turf. Some of that professional rivalry is based on genuine differences of view. In some case histories, there is oo single "right answer". What that implies is that the space for experimentation needs to be as broad as possible, so that we can all learn what works. That inevitably means a degree of administrative untidiness. The trick - and cases such as Chinis and Zito demonstrate the human cost of failure - is to preserve space for innovation while ensuring that needy people do not fall through it; to patch together the medical and social services agencies into a seamless whole.

So: community care is dead - long live community care! The high hopes of a decade and a half ago for closing the hospitals and accommodating the mentally ill down the street have evaporated. Realism has dawned. We probably now have too few beds in dedicated psychiatric units and hospitals. But we also know that what matters as much as bed oumbers is throughput - that is to say, not allowing patients who do not need residential care to block beds.

Stephen Dorrell's Green Paper is the Whitehall equivalent of wetting a finger and sticking it in the air to see which way the wind is blowing. The Health Secretary's good intentions are oot in doubt; a decent and serious man, as well as an ambitious one, he deserves credit for giving the care of the mentally ill his attention - there are few votes in it.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

He certainly deserves a more coosidered response than his shadow was prepared to give him yesterday. Chris Smith has fallen into the trap of reflex reactions to government announcements, always of a carping and critical nature. (Since Gordon Brown's anoouncement banning additional spending by Labour, Mr Smith really will have to start singing a more convincing tune than the archaic melody

that says spend, spend, spend.)
The problem with the Green Paper
yesterday was obvious on page one. It was signed by a single secretary of state - yet the core of the problem is that

responsibility has to he shared between the domains of government. It ought to have been co-written with the Environmeot, Employment and Social Security Secretaries as well as the Health Secretary. At least it should have recognised that lack of co-ordination at the centre is part of the reasoo why "community care" has not lived up to the expectations of struggling families, worried oeighbours and angry health professionals. Government passes mooey to local authorities through a support grant manipulated

by the Environment Department,

which has too little contact with the

Department of Health. Some new arrangement is needed, perhaps a ded-icated ministerial task force or a policy agency with a mission to deliver across departmental boundaries.

Those who present themselves to the state as mentally ill need a single and enduring reference in the system, a case worker who stays on the case ~ who persists. The mentally ill won't worry about whether they are being entered into a Care Programme (what the NHS offers the mentally ill) or receiving Managed Care (how local authority social services define things): what matters is that there is a path that can lead out of medical treatment into a Benefits Agency office and a housing association.

The Green Paper, hedging its bets, offers options for remaking the local commissioning agency for mental illness. One of them – the creation of new ad hoc authorities – is said to be a brain-child of Number 10. Whoever its author, it is a still-born solution. Such an agency would be a creature of central government, but provision for the mentally ill is predominantly a local service, depending as it does on variations in jobs, housing, demography and (not to be forgotten) public attitudes towards mentally

ill neighbours.
This is a ferociously complicated subject, which requires sharper government thinking and clearer lines of communication. It is not a popular subject; you will hear few, if any, speeches about it during the election campaign. But it is hugely important to tens of thousands of our fellow citizens and their families. "Mental illness" may not exist as a single category. But the pain, fear and confusion is widespread and under-discussed; and these sufferers have had a rotten deal from the rest of us.

Are we a nation of fibbers?

Tt has often been said that no people Lare quite so utterly private and so impossible for outsiders to understand as the English. These days, with the tele-vision-and-tabloid fashion for emotional exhibitionism, that might seem as out of date as John Major's summoning-up of Orwell's warm beer and cycling spinsters - a Silent England of laconic villagers and pursed lips. We are not so sure, but nor, of course, is No 10. Mr Major and his colleagues still believe they can win the election, above all because they think that deep down, vast oumbers of "don't knows" and apparent Labour supporters are really Tories. We shall see. But what would it mean for all that sampling and polling, those "shock reports" and phone surveys if it turned out that the English were not only private, but unabashed liars too?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Jailing asylum seekers flouts human rights

asylum-seekers in Rochester prison have to resort to a hunger strike to draw the attention of the public to the arbitrary and often prolonged

Recent statements by Home Office Minister Ann Widdecombe have been inaccurate. First, she has judicial process including appeal, but, in violation of international human rights standards, those detained may be held indefinitely, are not properly informed of the

Secondly, she has said that those asylum-seekers are detained Home Office of their claim to asylum. This implies that only rejected asylum-seekers are detained. A recent survey by Amnesty International demonstrated that in the vast majority of cases the decision to detain is taken when the individual is just entering the asylum process.

repeatedly called on the seekers whilst their claims are processed. While the majority of people seeking asylum in the UK. are more than 750 asylum-seekers detained at any one time on the under the powers of the

The UK is the only European Union country where asylum-seekers are held in detention for "crime" being that they have applied for asylum. JAN SHAW Refugee Officer Amnesty International

came to this country from St Petershurg. They were escaping from the tyranny of the Soviet Union. Some of them worked in Germany on their way and had to escape a second time from the officialdom and terror of Nazi

They came here with nothing. Life was hard. They were happy and proud to become UK citizens. My uncle Mark was a successful barrister here until he was in his eightics. My father, Serge, worked in the BBC through the Second World War, monitoring Soviet and German broadcasting. He often told me how lucky be was that

Hot tip

Sir: Joe Boswell (letter, 3 Fehruary) might save some trouble by emulating Lord Berners, who travelled on the train with a clinical thermometer. The frequent insertion of same under the tongue, and the subsequent anxious shaking down of the mercury. usually allowed him to travel alone. SIMON RENDALL

Sir. It is a sorry state of affairs when

cootended that all decisions to detain asylum-seekers are subject to reasons for their detention and have no effective opportunity to challenge

because they have not convinced the

For some 10 years, Amnesty has Government to review its practice of arbitrarily detaining asylumare admitted temporarily, pending determination of their claim, there authority of the immigration officer,

Immigration Act 1971. often lengthy of periods of time with no effective legal remedy, their only London ECI

During the Thirties my family

people here were so decent and just. MICHAEL WOLFF

detention of asylum-seekers.

Sir: Are Michael Howard and Ann Widdecombe acting in the national interest? Won't they be responsible if any of the "detainees" die?

London WC1

Sevenoaks, Kent



Sir: You report (1 February) that fewer than 1 per cent of teachers
"can't teach". In my experience of Ofsted as a parent, the inspector can't inspect, and the Ofsted questionnaire for parents doesn't ask the simplest and most obvious

I have two sons at Pimlico School. Three weeks ago I was at a well-attended meeting for parents held as part of the school's current Ofsted inspection. The inspector found it hard not to interject. As rapporteur he trivialised important points. His idea of structuring the meeting was to seek out criticism of the school which generally wasn't forthcoming.

In his manipulation of the parents' meeting, the inspector's approach echoes the questionnaire. This takes the form of 12 statements with which the respondent is invited to agree or disagree on a five-point scale. Not one refers to the performance of the school as a whole. Not one raises the simple issue: "The school is doing a good

job. Agree or Disagree?" The questionnaire design makes it impossible for respondents to acknowledge the obvious fact that schools don't operate in a vacuum For example, at Pinlico as elsewhere, parents take views on the setting of homework in the light of what they know about the availability of textbooks and other resources. But the inspectorate seems to assume that parents are too dim to understand such qualifications.

Are Chris Woodhead and his inspectorate capable of listening? AUBREY NUNES London SW2

School inspectors | Sir: In the light of statistics published about the number of incompetent teachers and underachieving schools it would be interesting to know the percentage of incompetent Ofsted inspectors. Headteachers and school governors are powerless to challenge the findings of an Ofsted inspection. There is no authority to turn to if they have been unfairly treated. It would be interesting to

compare, if such an experiment were possible, the findings of two separate Ofsted teams inspecting the same school, in the same week MARGARET POWELL Grimsby, Lincolnshire

Sir: While I am glad that education features so highly on the electoral agendas of both main parties, I remain uneasy concerning their ability to get to the heart of the problems that bedevil our schools.

Everyone blames the Sixties. However, there wasn't much wrong with the liberalism of that era; it wasn't "free expression" that started the rot; rather, mismanagement of the raising of the school-leaving age.

I belong to the last generation which had the option of leaving school at 15. I chose not to, but some of my less academie friends were persuaded to stay on by the promise of exciting vocational courses. The bait was tempting: a couple of rusty pre-war cars appeared outside the metalwork shop, and friends were assured that they would be given the chance to restore them, and even drive them round the playing field.

It may have happened once, but not thereafter. Stroppy "fourth-year leavers" simply became inteachable "fifth-year leavers". When I started teaching in the mid-Seventies I was horrified to discover that they were all being forced through the same academic mill, regardless of aptitude. The old-style CSE, which had been quite properly conceived as the non-academic equivalent of the GCE, had come to he regarded (by schools and employers alike) as an

inferior qualification. Children who were once not expected to try for the glittering prizes of academia are now penalised for failing to win them, thus creating the false impression that standards are falling. JE MULDOWNEY

Pooh could have gone too

Sir: I went to boarding school, and, horrible though it was, I must disagree with Linda Fielding (letter, 31 January). Everybody had cuddly toys, and oobody was teased about it. My mother taught in residential schools, where teddy bears were on the beds of all the children, boys and girls alike. Linda Fielding has misread the ending of The House at Pooh Corner. The point was that Christopher realised that as he became older, and his time was going to be taken up with lessons, he was not going to be able to play with his teddy bear all the time.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fact 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

So off they went together. But wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the lop of the Forest a little boy and his bear will always be playing.

"An Enchanted Place" from The
House at Pooh Corner (1928)

It may be a tragedy that little boys have to grow up, hut it would be sadder still if they didn't! PAMELA D PLAYLE-MITCHELL

Let turbines top city towers

Sir: The ideal site for wind turbines is neither in our National Parks nor out at sea ("Friends oppose hlot on Wordsworth landscape", 3 February). It is on the roofs of high buildings in our cities.

Each huilding would sell the electricity it generated, to offset its own fuel bills. The only problem is one of safety; turbine blades occasionally break off in stormy weather. The solution is to fit them with restraining wires, so that when this happens they do not fall on to the streets below.

Imagine the scene: Canary Wharf Tower itself, all the skyscrapers in the Square Mile and the Barbican. the Shell building, the Millbank Tower, Centre Point even, all with propellers spinning round on top. Best of all would be a turbine atop each of Battersea Power Station's chimneys, restoring that grand building to its original use. RUPERTLEE London SW74

Lost tribe

Oxford City Council

this summer.

STEF SPENCER,

Oxford fights

for green belt

fact, the great majnrity of it has

already been confirmed. His real

argument appears to be with Oxford City Council, for having

the green belt that lies within the

supported the green belt. The

council's first attempt at drawing

up an inner boundary for the green belt was rejected following a public

inquiry in the Sixties, as being too

attempt in define the boundary in

the Oxford Local Plan is currently

going through the final adoption

remaining part of the green belt

procedures. This should hopefully

tightly drawn. A second attempt was similarly rejected in the

Eightics. The council's third

lead to confirmation of the

Chair, Planning Committee

Sir: "The don't-know-doo't-muchcare clan, who are stupider and worse informed than average" (Polly Toynbee, "A much meaner tribe", 3 February). Whatever happened to the intelligent, openminded and indeed independent, who find neither political "tribe" wholly attractive and are the natural readership of your fine newspaper?
PATRICK CHAMBERLAIN Caternam, Surrey

Pot and the higher boredom

Sir: I was interested to read in your extremely good leading article
"Forget the lectures. Young people need facts" (1 February), your reservation that pot makes people

If that is the case, then I admit that I have now been boring for more than 30 years and it's helped

lo keep me sane.

Most of my friends must also be boring. I think I am boring wheo I am being bored, hut for me being bored is a higher state - I'm open to any possibility. I certainly would rather be bored than cold, tired, human affect on he discontinuous. hungry, afraid or badly needing a pee. Maybe life is a balance and you can only be as interesting as you can be boring. (NAME AND ADDRESS WITHHELD) London N8

Sir: 1 appland your call for more facts and less hysteria over drugs. However I would pick you up an "the illogicality of hanning some

boring drugs and not others". The logic of this argument appears to be that soft drugs should be legalised for consistency's sake. As you point out: "Alcohol ... causes more death and dismay than any other drug available." Surely this is an argument against legalisation.

Our tolerance of alcohol and tohacco has, in many respects. proved to be disastrous. The failure of prohibition reminds us that retraction of legalising a drug is almost impossible. We must be convinced that legalising soft drugs will not be another costly decision for society.
Dr G M BIERMAN

Beethoven tops symphony league

Sir: Analysis of all symphonies Sir: Mr Gillard-Watson (letter, 31 January) says that the Oxford green belt has never been confirmed. In performed during 1996 at London's Royal Albert, Royal Festival, Barbican and Queen Elizabeth Halls and at St John's, Smith Square, shows that Beethoven maintains his lead with 14, while Mahler is runner-up with 22 and one-fifth (Adagio from No 10). been unable in confirm the part of Mozart follows with 22 and City boundaries. Oxford City Council has always

Bruckner leaps in with 20. Shostakovich scores 18, Tchaikovsky 15 and Sibelius 13, including two Kullervos. Thanks to one movement of his New World symphony at an Ernest Read Children's Concert, Dvorak scores 11 and a quarter, pushing Haydn into ninth place with 11.

Brahms and Schubert tie with 10 each, but Brahms will do better in 1997, his centenary year. One strange omission: Beethoven's No 2 did not get a single performance. DAVID CHESTERMAN Charleswood, Henfordshire

Ships of state

Sir: Edward Heath is not the only former premier to whom a nautical simile has been applied ("After 46 years in Parliament, 'old Dreadnought' sets suil for one more battle with the young guns", I February), Gladstone, referring to Peel, said that "former prime ministers are like great rafts

floating untethered in a harbour". There are many who think that every harbour needs elderly vessels, whether seaworthy or derelict. They are picturesque, lend dignity and keep pilots aleri.
JOHN MITCHELL London SE13

analysis

magine a town where

parents have a wide

choice of school. There

are two grammar

schools, schools which have

opied out of local authority

control and even one which has

not, for those on the left who

object to the rest. It looks like a

place which fulfils every Con-

servative's parental choice

dream. In fact, it is a parental

nightmare.
The town is the London bor-

ough of Bromley where Harriet

Harman's son, Jo. is in his sec-

ond term at St Olave's grammar school, and its story is a cau-

tionary tale about the perils of

grant-maintained school, Haves,

applied to the Secretary of State

for Education for permission to

select 25 per cent of its pupils.

Last July, the 13 heads of the

other schools got together and agreed that they would all select

15 per cent of their pupils to

stop Hayes siphoning off the

cleverest children. They are not

allowed to select more without

permission from the Secretary

choice for those who are not

selected. But, to make matters

worse, all except one of the schools picking 15 per cent set

their entrance exams on the same day. So parents were forced to choose just one of

them. A barrister consulted by

the pressure group Campaign

for the Advancement of State Education thought this reduced

parental choice so drastically

that it could be challenged in the

courts under the 1980 Educa-

tion Act, which gives parents the

right to express a preference for

Parental problems in Brom-

ley do not end there. Because

nearly all the schools have opted

out of local authority control,

they all have their own admis-

sions procedures: the local

authority does not juggle appli-

cations for all schools. A parent

wanting to secure a place for a

individually to find out what is

happening to that child's appli-

cation. Easy enough perhaps for

a Harman but daunting for a

single mother of four with lim-

Nowhere illustrates more

ited time and cash.

child has to contact each schoo

the school of their choice.

Selection inevitably reduces

of State.

competition in education. The trouble began when one

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The Great School Lottery

Labour. How could it be otherwise as Tony Blair's son, Euan, heads for his opted-out school on the other side of town and Jo boards the train for St Olave's?

Blair is right to decide he cannot put the clock back 20 years to the time when local authorities told pupils to go to their local school and most of them obeyed. Two education acts (1980 and 1988) have promoted parents' right to choose the schools they want, regardless of where they live. The courts have decreed that pupils do not even have to attend a school within their own local authority.

For some parents there almost certainly is more choice. clearly than Bromley that the notion of parental choice depends on who you are and The number of Euan Blairs is where you live. Yet, for polingrowing as people shop around cians, it has become as in search of the education that inescapable as kissing babies. Long the watchword of the best fits their child. A three-year Open University study of parental choice among 6,000 Thatcherite Tories, it has been parents to be published soon has enthusiastically adopted by new

The principle of selection is a farce. The sought-after schools are the unavailable ones, and the result is chaos, says Judith Judd

are losing out in places where parents have a realistic choice of several schools. So the policy of parental

choice has made a difference. But the rhetoric far outstrips the reality. While some of those who shop around succeed (Blair and Harman), for many parents the idea of parental choice is a myth. Quite apart from the hewildering patchwork of schools created in places such as Bromley, popular schools are, by definition, oversubscribed and end up choosing their pupils rather than the other way round.

Even the Government has had reluctantly to recognise that parental choice is not quite what it seems. The first version of its

found that some local schools Parents' Charter had a chapter chance of getting in. Instead, headed "The Right to Choose," obscuring the fact that the only "right" parents have is to "express a preference". Two years and thousands of failed parental appeals over schooling later, ministers had sensed danger. The same chapter in the second version was headed simply "choosing a school". The right mentioned was "to a place at your local school". But the words 'choice" and "choose" still peppered the pages and parents were told: "Your choice is wider

as a result of recent changes." n a recent report, the Audit Commission disagreed. It outlined for the first time the extent of parental discontent about school choice. One in

five parents failed to get the secondary school of their choice, it said and in London the figure rose to half. The Open University study, based on three different areas, suggests that between a quarter and half of all parents do not get what they want. Previous figures about choice were an underestimate, both studies suggest, because they failed to take into account a large body of parents who didn't bother to put down the school they really wanted because they knew they had no

they played a strategic game by putting down their second choice school to make certain they would not be diverted to a third, even less desirable school. What the Government had

choice with no means of satisfying it. Parents

encouraged to choose popular schools but the latter often have neither the money nor the space to expand. The result is chaos.

And the people who benefit most are the articulate middle ular local classes. Research from King's College, London, shows that class dominates the way parents choose schools. While a group of middle-class parents rushes round with clipboards asking about mixed-ability teaching. dual science and the proportion of starred-A grades achieved in Russian GCSEs, low-income families are preoccupied with transport difficulties and whether their children will be plunged into an unfamiliar

world. Many of them choose the

class parents do take as much trouble as their more affinent neighbours in choosing schools, but they value different things. They also lack the knowledge to compete if the going gets rough and their children are refused a created, the commission suggested, was a vast appetite for place. As the King's study puts ir "Cultural cap-

> ital plays a crucial role, know-**6** The notion ing how to of choice approach, present, mount a depends on case, maintain who you are pressure, make an impact, be and where remembered." Middle-class you live 9

> > tage. Many popauthority comprebensives still determine admissions by catchment area. In some cities, you may live less than half a mile from a school and still not get a place. Parents with enough money can simply move into the right area where house prices are determined partly by proximity to the popular school. A comprehensive has arrived when it starts appearing in estate agents' windows. If all else fails, there is always the private sector.

another advan-

and edicational inequality grows. In Scotland, where the shift away from local authority control of admissions happened local school. Some workingearlier than in England, the result has been the creation of sink schools in the most deprived parts of cities. As publis have drained away from the least popular schools, so have staff and resources. Research from Edinburgh University shows that, though some pupils have made small academic gains by attending "better" schools rather than their local one, the losses for those who attended the unpopular schools

have been far greater.
The difficulties over school choice in this country have arisen for peculiarly British reasons. As Donald Hirsch, an educational consultant and parents have author, points out: "Choice is an impossible aspiration if everyooe chooses in the same way."

And, in Britain, everyone does. There is a clear hierarchy of schools: private, grammar, comprehensives with plenty of nice middle-class children, comprehensives with fewer nice middleclass children and so on. The trouble is that, while in Denmark and the Netherlands parents are happy to choose different sorts of school, in Britain

everyone wants the same. League tables, a centralising measure introduced by a Conservative government, are the

enemy of enlightened parental choice. Their message to parents is clear; the aim of all schools must be to score as highly as possible in academic examinations across the board. There is no room for schools that excel at science or technology, at languages or sport, at drama or music, schools that are best for slow children or those that are best for bright ones. All that counts is the proportion of pupils getting five A-C grades at GCSE and the average A-level point score.

Ministers have tried hard to introduce a greater variety of schools but they have made little impact: the differences remain more apparent than real. In the Open University study, parents saw nothing to mark out grant-maintained schools from the rest. They chose them not because they had opted out but for the same reasons as they chose other schools: discipline, exam results, reputation which went back for decades.

Studies of City Technology Colleges, another arm of the Government's "diversity" policy, show that parents value them because they see them as a symbol of traditional academic excellence rather than because they offer a new, exciting technological education.

ven that classic weapon of choice, the voucher, has failed to increase choice for the under-fives. £1,100 vouchers for all fouryear-olds have not stimulated the market in private and voluntary nurseries. Instead, playgroups are closing as parents rush to put their children into state school reception classes which are sometimes illtheir way into the best schools, the gap between schools widens

equipped to cope with them.

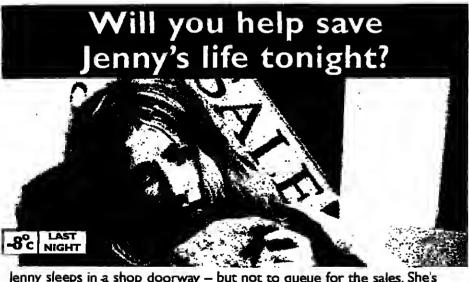
Labour is also offering diversity but shows little sign of producing it. On paper, the three types of school it would offer local authority, voluntary-aided and foundation - look much of a muchness, give or take their names. There is talk of "soecialist" schools but the details

are unclear. While there is no genuine diversity, parents who cannot get their children into the popular schools will continue to feel conned by the rhetoric of parental choice. A co-ordinated admissions policy that allocated places would even out some of the absurdities in places such as Bromley. But there would still be a lot of dissatisfied customers.

One researcher has suggested that the problem is so intractable that a lottery would be the best way to decide who goes where. While parents cling stubbornly to the view that all schools are unequal and governments fail to create schools which are truly diverse, the political promise of parental choice will remain largely unfulfilled.

Correction

Geoffrey Robinson (Profile, 3 February) has asked us to make clear that he has no arrangements with Coventry Football Club by which he gets a cut of any transfer fee if players are sold



Jenny sleeps in a shop doorway - but not to queue for the sales. She's there because she's homeless. All she wants this winter is to survive but without help, she may not.

Jenny has learned to cope with dirt, hunger and illness - but harsh weather could finish her off. Last winter, in London alone, 74 people perished while sleeping rough.

most important saving you'll ever make.

Crisis, PO Box 13295, Freepost EDO3791, London EI 18R

You can help Jenny - and hundreds like her - make it through winter. Send £25 to Crisis today. We'll use it to give a vulnerable homeless person food, warmth and shelter at one of our emergency cold weather shelters. £25 is a small price to pay to save a human life. But it could be the

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The truth will out, even in the small print

As the better-off manipulate

you follow the news?
I mean, outside the big headlines? Oh yes, we all know that Chris Evans has left the BBC even if we have no idea who Chris Evans is. and we know that everyone except the media is bored with the coming election already, but how well do you know the small but significant stories in the news?

All right. Here's a test. Simply read the following news stories purportedly garnered in the last seven days and say which ones you think are false and which ones are true. Here's a clue. Only one story is true.

1. Bath City Council bas ordered a resident, Malcolm Hines, to take down and rebuild his new house, because the style is wrong. He had it designed in neo-Georgian style to fit in with Bath's classic Georgian façades, which suited the city fine. They have no quarrel over the look of the house. Where Bath and Mr Hines parted company was over the standard of building. Mr Hines had his house huilt to specifications. Bath City

Council points out that in Georgian times almost everything was hastily constructed, jerry-built and skimped, and that those elegant façades concealed a multitude of sins. To achieve true authenticity, therefore, a new Georgian huilding should be badly huilt. Mr Hines's is not. Therefore he has been ordered to rebuild it badly.

2. A man who was arrested in Tethury on a charge of 'stalking" the Prince of Wales has been released without being charged. He admitted that he was in the habit of following close behind the Prince, but claimed that this was justified on the grounds that he was Charles's official private detective.

Gloucestershire police are said to be "embarrassed" 3. You have just missed your chance to buy drugs in our McDonald's hamburger. It has been discovered that marijuana was being added to some namburgers in a McDonald's in Connecticut. A windowworker catering for the drive-through trade had been adding marijuana to Happy Meals for children. He is



Miles Kington

under arrest, and children in Connecticut are now being deprived by McDonald's of

free marijuana.
4. The reason that Germany's bid for the World Cup in AD 2006 has been favoured is that all three leaders of the main British political parties agreed in private to urge the international football body not to consider England's hid. Most politicians would rather die than risk having the World Cup here, with all the attendant expense, violence, mess, civil unrest and media overkili. "Look

after the Olympics!" they say. As nobody knows what happened to Atlanta after the Olympics, this is puzzling; but perhaps this means that nobody now wants to go to Atlanta. But did anyone want to go to Atlanta before the Olympics

5. A man in New York is suing Andrew Lloyd Wehber for \$12,000,060. This is oo the grounds that he went to see the Lloyd Webber musical Cats and fell asleep during the first number, not waking up until the end of the show. During the time he was asleep he had the most distressing nightmares in which he dreamt that he had not, after all, been abused as a child by his parents but had had a really happy childhood. As he is currently suing his parents for \$12m for childhood abuse, this has caused him undue suffering. as he may now have to withdraw the case. None of this would have happened (he claims) either if Lloyd Webber's music had been good enough to keep him awake or if a member of the cast had come and woken him up by inviting him to a

hit of audience participation, as he had been led to expect. He is claiming \$12m for the emotiooal distress and \$60 for the price of the ticket.

6. A trainee conjuror in Wolverhampton needed an audience to practise with, so he put some coloured balloons on the gate outside his house. Over 20 boys and girls turned up that day in party dress, thinking that there was a party going on, even though they had not been invited. They admit that they had a good time and that the conjuring was good hut they are now suing the trainee magician for not giving them going home presents. He is countersuing them for gate-

crashing. Right. There were the six stories. Have you made your mind up which was the true

Well done! The true story was the McDonald's marijuana story, which appeared in the International Herald Tribune on 30 January. I am sorry they sacked the man, personally. Giving away free marijuana was the first nice thing I had heard about McDonald's in

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THE INDEPENDENT - WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 1997

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STRANGER

Labour finally begins to choose its enemies

P ohm Cook's assertion about the single currency - that he would favour British entry in 2002 if it was a success - is the most significant act of political positioning in the 1997 general election campaign so far. It is a shaping moment for New Labour. As a provocation, it matches Gordon Brown's

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tax pledge. But it goes further in one key regard: it is a rare example of a clear view from the Opposition that contradicts, rather than confirms, the received wisdom of Britain's political and media establishment. What effect will it have on

Tony Blair's extraordinarily subtle and persistent wooing of Labour's old enemies in business and the press? New Labour's charm-troopers have tickled up Rupert Murdoch and Lord Rothermere something rotten, and stroked many of the tycoons who haeked Margaret Thatcher, and then John Major in 1992, into a kind of dazed, purring acquies-cence. Will these boys like what Cook has said?

I think not. Yes, both Blair and Major are committed to "wait and see" on

and so on would tie up New Labour's first government in knots for a couple of years, losing

Nevertheless, there is now a significant gap between the parties. Both know that the key date for abolishing the pound for the euro is 2002. And, all things being equal, Labour is now clearly in favour. And the Tories (Kenneth Clarke and a few friends apart) aren L

There are many ifs, buts and interesting arguments to be had on the way, but note that Labour is now committed in principle to a key policy which the Conservative establishment what one could call the political-media complex – is overwhelmingly against, and regards as virtually treasonable. Those moguls whom Blair has wooed will be horrified. And indeed, within hours of Mr Cook's interview there was the sound of hissing from The Sun and rasping, throat-clearing unhappiness from The Times: sleeping dragons awake.

This is an important moment which ought to remind Labour of the limits of the possible in its rapprochement with the great powers in the land. There was always a limit, always a choice to be made. And it is a choice, about what kind of government Blair wants to lead.

In the post-socialist world, there are only conservative governments, which sustain big concentrations of power, and radical governments, which hreak them up on behalf of the public interest and the underdog. These concentrations can be overmighty trade unions, monopolistic companies, supermarket car-tels, EU institutions, officious quangos, or whatever. And it is perfectly possible for Tory governments to act radically, and Labour



Andrew Marr

Press tycoons will not like Robin Cook's willingness to join a single currency

feint or a fundamental shift. the single currency. Yes, neither would enter in the first wave – Major because his party would fall apart, Blair because the legislation for creating an independent Bank of England

But the dangers of being conservative are so much greater than the dangers of radicalism that I remain optimistic, A Labour administration which failed to challenge vested interests or assert a clear view of the public interest would, quite quickly, repel support.
So the mere fact that Cook was prepared to

ones to act conservatively.

be possible for New Labour

to act radically if it was also

obsessed with staying friends

with all the interests and

individuals it has been lob-

bying, and who have been lobbying it. A radical admin-

istration - unlike, perhaps, a

party seeking power - has to make enemies. From the outside, it has been hard to

tell whether Labour's charm

offensive has been a brilliant

pre-election guerrilla tactic

the enemy's intellectual ter-

ritory - or the start of a bold attempt to reshape the political map. New Labour, New

Establishment?

lightning strikes deep into

The nightmare would be

a Labour government that took a cynical decision to be

anti-radical; to make deals

with the powerful vested interests (whether it was the BMA, News International or Thateherite husiness-

men) in return for a quiet life and soothing support. Far-fetched? It isn't so far

from the behaviour of, say, Paul Keating's Australian Labor administration.

No one knows whether

the New Labour move is a

In this case, it would not

say something which was becoming politically sayable was heartening. It suggested a refusal to be bullied. That doesn't mean that a Labour government could ignore husiness opinion - indeed, the politics of the single currency are partly about which husiness influence you think matters more, Toyota-style inward investors, or national newspapers. The only utterly destructive thing would be to take the country in a direction which subverted politics altogether. For Labour, as for the Tories, there are no easy answers. There are severe political problems with EMU which have led this newspaper to ask whether a single currency can be reconciled at all with a functioning democracy. On the other hand, the thought of Britain outside the EU's infinential core is almost equally unappetising.

It might well be a country unable to attract inward investment; too weak to regulate its own markets; and too small to influence policy anywhere else. Its politicians would be, no doubt, bigger-looking, more colourful, sunlit figures on the national stage, free from the shadow of Brussels bureaucracy, loudly praised by the local press. But from a distance, they

would look like irrelevant, squeaking midgets.
For our politicians today, the choice is not
between national freedom and federal slavery, it is whether they prefer to share power with a cartel of European politicians or with a cartel trative catastrophes. The new rules introduced exactly a year of tycoons. I know which I'd prefer. And I think, and hope, that in its heart of hearts, ago meant that 13,000 asylumseekers lost any means of sur-

Asylum-seekers hunger for justice

by Polly Toynbee

oday marks exactly a year since the Government removed the right of most asy-lum-seekers to social security benefits. Meanwhile 12 asylum-seekers of various nationalities continue their hunger strike inside Rochester jail, protesting at being detained without a hearing and at being imprisoned in harsh

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The rights and wrongs of asylum are a muddy business. Even leading campaigners for refugee rights agree that the most fundamental principles of refugee status are murky. But first there are a few clear and easy principles.

There is currently a backlog of 56,000 cases awaiting adjudication, some 754 of them in prison. Those in detention have been put there on the authority of immigration officers alone, mainly for fear that they may abscond. Some stay locked up without a court hearing for more than two years - though the immigration service is notoriously bad at identifying the right potential absconders. The real injustice, as so often with our badly managed legal system, is delay in getting a

judgment. The hunger strikers and refugee campaigners want detainees to have a right to a judicial hearing within seven days of incarceration - in other words, the basic habeas corpus that is the hedrock right of any civilised nation. Not much to ask. As persons convicted of no crime, they also want the right to be held in special centres and not in prisons - another reasonable request.

However, instead of considering the merits of their cause, the Government has continued with its campaign of vilification against "bogus" asylum-seekers of whom more later. Ann Widdecombe, prisons minister, was eager to tell the Commons that one of the hunger strikers is a convicted sex offender - as though that somehow answered their complaints. No one is suggesting that all asylum-seekers be released - only that their

cases are reviewed by a judge so they can at least know why they are detained, and plead for bail. (Though to get bail, they need a British resident to put up £2,000 surety, and many know no one bere.) Implementing his benefit cuts for asylum-seekers has been yet another of Michael Howard's legal and adminis-

vival. However, the regulations they could find in hotels around were struck down by the Court the capital. In any one DSS of Appeal and Howard had to hotel there may be asylumreincorporate them into his seekers belonging to many, far-Asylum and Immigration Act in flung boroughs. But because the boroughs are not allowed to Then the High Court told offer money, they are obliged to deliver meals-on-wheels to

local authorities that they do have a duty, under the old each of their own refugees, National Assistance Act, to often travelling miles across provide food, warmth and shelter to anyone destitute, including asylum-scekers. But legal advice has warned local authorities that they cannot legally provide them with any money only with food and shelter. This has led to a truly hizarre situation.

In London, local authorities caring for about 2.500 destitute asylum-seekers have placed them in whatever vacancies

the city. So several different boroughs are sending daily pre-

These are people convicted of no crime. Instead

of considering the merits of their cause, the

Government continues to vilify 'bogus' refugees

pared meals to the same hostel. The Refugee Council runs a day centre in Vauxhall, hut most of its users have literally not a penny. Some walk for four hours from Hounslow to get there, for lack of bus money. The Refugee Council today publishes a report on their plight and Niek Hardwick, the chief executive, says that he has

never seen people in such abject poverty. However, undeterred, the Government is pursuing its case in the courts. still determined to remove even this last obligation to feed and

The Home Secretary boasts thousands of asylum-seekers ation flows. have been frightened away to more hospitable countries. In 1995 there were 43,965 applicants - but once the benefits were cut, numbers fell to 27.875 last year. The Government claims that this proves they must all have been "hogus". However, the genuine must also have been deterred from seeking asylum here, since the same proportion - some 20

house them.

per ceni - have been granted asylum this year, although the numbers have halved (unless, of course, some unspoken quota system is at work).

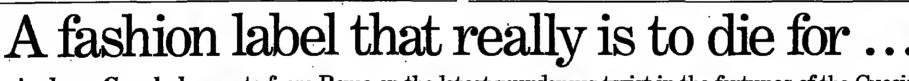
But that brings us to the question—that no one answers satisfactorily. What exactly is a genuine case, and what is a bogus one? We signed the UN Convention which gives this definition: "A person with a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion". Since then some countries, including ours. have added a more general "humanitarian" elause.

But what does that mean? It does not mean the 3.3 million Hong Kong Chinese, yet they have every reason to tear rule under the Chinese —as have the I billion Chinese. What of Rwanda and other African countries? Half the world lives under vile regimes and in legit-

imate fear of persecution. We once had a clear image of a genuine asylim-seeker. He was an East European intellectual who wrote samizdai books, and we welcomed him to the British Museum reading room. The cold war gave us obvious enemies, and our enemy's enemy was our friend. But that world has gone, and it is far less clear which people we should take in from which country, in fear of their lives for exactly what reasons. One kind of death is much like another to the victim. To try to separate out the "bogus" from the "genuine" largely misses the point, though catching some hlatant frauds may make us feel better about turning away so many in

a genuinely perilous plight, All of Europe, severally and combined, is tightening its borders, limiting its intake of refugees. Growing xenophobia in Germany and France is making the old tradition of welcoming victims of foreign despots harder to sell to the people. How many is the right number? That may be better negotiated across Europe, taking responsibilities together, as with the Bosnians, while offering humof the remarkable success of his anilarian aid to ease the prestough new benefit rules, since sures that create great popul-

But, however many or few. there will always be thousands we turn away. So the very least we can do in a wicked world is to treat them with absolute fairness, decency and justice while they are here. It will be a disgrace if any of these hunger strikers die while they are guests of Her Majesty: they are only demanding the most basic



Andrew Gumbel reports from Rome on the latest murderous twist in the fortunes of the Guccis

ou'd never guess by looking at their shoes, would you? Those trademark Gucci moccasins look so safe, so conservative, so respectable. Lined up in the shop windows of high-class fashion parades or shown off in the foyer of La Scala. those elegantly finished alligator hides and bamboo-handled handbags are the very expression of comfortable And yet it seems the venerable

House of Gucci has generated a more troubling product to be remembered by: designer dysfunctionality. Two years ago the last family member to run the business, Maurizio Gucci, was gunned down by a professional hitman at his office in central Milan. Now it appears that the architect of his murder may have been none other than his ex-wife Patrizia, who was carted off to jail last Friday along with an extra-ordinary oddhall crew of alleged accomplices including her personal medium and a hotel porter known for his interest in dabbling in the occult.

This is the kind of tale one expects from New York mafiosi, or maybe the new generation of nouveau riche gangsters in Eastern Europe, hut not from one of haly's best-known dynasties. But then the Guccis have always been a hit different. The rows and family feuds were legendary long before Maurizio met his sticky end, as was the ruthlessness with which rival scions washed their dirty linen in public. One family ex-wife remarked that being married to a Gucci was worse than going to dinner with the Borgias. As recent events have proved, she was not

This is a family whose members have been known to resort to physical violence in company board meetings, and whose mternecine struggles ultimately led to the business being sold out to a Bahraini consortium called Investcorp in 1993. One of Maurizio's cousins, Giorgio, once provoked a family schism by setting up a voked a namely school by seeing up a managed trival Gueri company; Giorgio's late Maurizio Gueri who did not lack for about the intolarably puny terms of Auriemma, prosecutors say, put her in just a helping hand.



brother Paolo took a hlunter tack during the ensuing chaos by shopping most of his relatives, including his own father Aldo, to the US authorities for

The story of Maurizio's ex-wife and alleged assassin Patrizia Reggiani, nee Martinelli, provides an insight into the decadence and vile emotions that have conspired to smash the Gucci reputation. She is a classic example of the poor girl made good - or, in her case, made rich beyond her wildest dreams - whose fascination with her new lifestyle made her selfish, vindic-

tive and unfathomahly crazy. She owed her first encounter with serious wealth to her mother, who ditched her impoverished first husband in favour of an Italian transportation magnate called Fernando Reggiani. Patrizia managed to have herself adopted and included in Reggiam's will just before the old man died in 1973 - a manoeuvre her halfbrother Vincenzo is convinced she accomplished through foul play.

money or status but was not yet in an obvious position to take over the family firm. The couple had two children and then, with the help of Maurizio's father Rodolfo, set about claiming the Gucci succession. By the mid-1980s they had succeeded, scattering Maurizio's cousins to the four corners of the globe and booting chairman Aldo Gucci ont of his office without even a

chance to clear his desk. All this was not enough for Patrizia, who felt excluded from many of Maurizio's power games and furious at the string of mistresses he insisted on parading around New York, Milan, Rome and St Moritz. Insisting that he prove his love for her, she forced him to buy a fabulous three-masted schooner he could not afford, the Creole, and then made him spend millions of dollars redecorating it.

Shortly afterwards she left him anyway, complaining that he was consumed by a "paranoid exultation of power". Over the next decade, she played the role of carping bitch, The Reggiani social set soon netted poisoning her children against their her another catch, the highly eligible own father and complaining endlessly

her divorce settlement. "How am I supposed to live with only three trillion lire in the bank, a house in Rome and one in New York?" she once lamented on an Italian chat show. "I do have two daughters to take care of. you know."

When Maurizio was murdered on March 27, 1995, her reaction was less than tender. "On a human level I'm sorry, but from a personal point of view I can't really say the same thing," she told reporters besieging her at her sumptuous home in Milan. Her first act on hearing the news was to beat a path round to Maurizio's house to ask his fiancée, Paola Franchi, for the return of a sweater belonging to her daughter Alessandra. The two women were seen studiously avoiding each other at the funeral, and have had

nothing to do with each other since. The key to the alleged conspiracy was Patrizia's friendship with a Neapolitan medium called Pina Auriemma, whom she had met years before on the island of Ischia and subsequently helped set up two unsuccessful Gucci shops in Naples.

touch with a Milan hotel porter called Ivano Savioni who in turn introduced her to two underworld types, Orazio Cicala and Benedetto Ceraulo, who allegedly acted as driver and gunman

The plot appears to have unravelled in the past few months as the con-spirators decided they wanted more money out of Patrizia – the initial fee is believed to have been 600 million lire, or around £250,000 – and she refused to give it to them. Prosecutors say they caught up with the gang as they were plotting another murder, this time of Patrizia herself. It seems Messrs Savioni, Cicala and Ceraulo were not as well-versed in the ways of the Milan underworld as they might have been, and they ended up blabbing much of their story to a police informant. Patrizia denies the charges and claims that although she repeatedly said she wanted her husband dead, the gang acted entirely of its own accord and came to her afterwards to demand money.

Patrizia's reaction to her arrest was stone-cold. "You've come because of my husband's murder, haven't you?" she murmured through the entryphone to the policemen waiting below. She packed her things in a Gucci suitcase - what else? - and drove off to San Vittore prison in a flamboyant fur coat. "I wouldn't wear that in jail if I were you," the arresting officer advised her. She heeded his advice, and paid him to give her his unas-

suming trenchcoat instead. Patrizia once remarked how the Guccis have followed the well-worn pattern of many family dynastics: the first generation builds, the second consolidates, and the third destroys. Sure enough, the company is now in uutside hands, and the family is a hasket case caught in the full glare of publicity. The Guccis may have been instrumental in their own destruction but one thing is clear from the past few days: Patrizia gave them more than

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Catallian and contenting, prosecutors say, put her i

obituaries / gazette

Dorothy Mandelstam

Dorothy Mandelstam was back to functional life in the sometimes called affectionately the Queen of Continence; and her life from her late forties was intertwined with the Continence Movement.

Working in a Cinderella branch of medicine where the general public and fellow pro-fessionals expected nothing but quiet warehousing of destitute and discarded old people, she took a single-minded interest in the causes, alleviation and management of incontinence - long

a taboo subject. Born Dorothy Hillier in 1923, she was evacuated from London during the Second World War to Lianelli in Wales, and billeted in a general practitioner's household, which must have encouraged her interest in medicine and led her to choose physiotherapy as a career. By good forume she trained at King's College Hospital Physiotherapy School.

In those days physiotherapy was generally taught in an insular and enclosed atmosphere. in small schools attached to hig medical teaching hospitals and the students were unexposed to other disciplines or indeed to anything outside the hothouse of hospital. King's was different. The Medical Director. Dr Frank Cooksey, was a pioneer medical rehabilitationist: helping disabled people

community. With a further two years post-qualification, working at the Red Cross Rheumatism Clinic in Peckham Rye and at the Roffey Park Psychiatric Centre, Dorothy's interest was assured in the psy-che as well as the soma of illness and disability.

Having come under the in-fluence of the philosopher and educationist Frank Coles as a student, she decided on a social science diploma and enrolled at the London School of Eco-nomics from 1946 to 1948. She then worked in the Children's Department of the London County Council, assisting unmarried mothers and adoption processes. This she continued after her marriage in 1954 to a South African scientist, Joel Mandelstam, later the Iveagh Professor of Microbiology at Oxford.

After the hirth of her first child in 1956, she returned to part-time work as a physiotherapist in the Obstetrics Department of Edgware General Hospital in north London; five years later, true to her principles, she courageously allowed her second delivery to he filmed, and used the film in her classes. Edgware Hospital was also the home of a progressive department of geriatric medi-

LLOYDS OF LONDON

ed to it from many parts of the demoralising subject of incon- Health Education Council in world. The Principal of the Guy's Hospital School of Physiotherapy, Elizabeth Tanner, requested the opportunity to work voluntarily with the geri-atric unit; she wanted to test a hypothesis that the practice of suitable exercise could prevent many present-day illnesses.

Her paramount speculation related to the high incidence of incontinence in elderly women. Did it relate to childbirth and damage to the pelvic floor mus-cles and lack of re-education of these muscles to function optionally afterwards? A link-up between Tanner, in the geriatric unit, and Mandelstam, in the obstetric department, was easily arranged.

When Tanner left the hospital, Mandelstam moved half her allegiance to the department of geriatric medicine. At that time, the labels senile, lazy, or dirty were often applied to sufferers of incontinence. Little or no training was given to medical students and nurses' training was mainly directed to containment: the pad, mop and hucket approach.

The department had close ties with the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF), created by Lady Hamilton, who had long been at the forefront of a movement to encourage pro-fessional interest in the

unence, underlining what a devastating effect it could have. When a vacancy occurred at the DLF in 1974, Mandelstam was appointed the first Incontinence Adviser to run the Incontinence Advisory Service The DLF's Annual General

record the speed with which the whole subject opened up. Through her contact with Edg-ware Hospital, Mandelstam was already working with the Open University in the production of a module on incontinence. Initial permission was refused for a television programme to support the incontinence chapter it "might upset viewers". Two years later, the response to just such a broadcast came in shoals of letters to the DLF begging for help. Its Incontinence Advisory Service soon became a focal point for Ohtaining or disseminating information and testing new ideas nationally and inter-

nationally.
One of Mandelstam's first acts, in 1976, had been to organise a competition to design an "Emergency Pack for Incontinence" to be carried by district nurses. Radio and press interviews followed, giving the valuable oxygen of publicity to the subject. A leaflet on incontinence was produced by the

conjunction with the DLF which they had refused to do before. In 1977, Marjorie Proops launched Mandelstam's first book, Incontinence - a guide to the understanding and management of a very common complaint; about a third of purchasers were professionals (in Reports from 1974 to 1992 1978 it went into a second edition). In the same year the Chief Nursing Officer recommended that a specialist advi-

sory nurse be designated to every health district. Mandelstam then compiled and edited a text book Incontinence and its Management (1980). In 1981, at a meeting at Bedford College, the Association for Continence Advisers was formed; it later became the Association for Continence Advice (ACA). Dorothy Mandelstam was appointed Chairman and remained so until 1990, when she was made an Honorary Life Member. By that time the ACA had 1000 members. In October 1996, the ACA Executive decided to call a bursary fund for tertiary education of its members the Dorothy Mandelstam Educational Award. This particular accolade gave her tremendous pleasure in ber

As a physiotherapist Mandelstam was consistently preaching the gospel of exercise

last weeks.

for maintenance of the muscles of the pelvic floor. The first course paying serious attention to the pelvic floor was validated in 1988 by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), on the Promotion of Continence and Management of Incontinence. This closed the circle for her. The group later changed its name to the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women's Health and proposed the election of Mandelstam to the highest ho-nour the CSP awards, a Fel-

lowship, in 1992. After 17 years of outstanding service, Dorothy Mandelstam retired from the DLF in 1992, and, due to financial constraints, the IAS was subsumed into other departments. Mandelstam had foreseen this possibility, and with so many new organisations related to continence springing up, she had gathered together a collection of enthusiastic professionals to brainstorm a pattern for the future. The great need appeared to be for an over-arching organisation (much as the DLF had been) to be a focal point and umbrella for all the small groups; the Continence Foundation was launched at the House of Commons in March 1992, with the potential of becoming an international re-

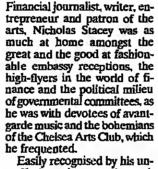


Retirement was stranger than Dorothy Mandelstam had realised, although she had always maintained a life apart from work. She continued to play tennis twice a week and started to play the piano again - taking lessons and playing in a trio with two friends, a cellist and violinist. It was only during the past year that she discovered an occupation that really lit her up in the same way that incon-tinence had - the National Trust house, 2 Willow Road, the former home of the modernist architect Erno Goldfinger, where she trained as a guide and revelled in being able to enthuse the visitors she was showing

Monica Stewart

Dorothy Alma Hillier, physiotherapist: born London 5 No-vember 1923; married 1954 Joel Mandelstam (marriage dissolved 1974; one son, one daughter); died London 8 December 1996.

Nicholas Stacey



stuffy but elegant suits and, above all, by his enormous hushy eyebrows, this handsome Magyar would invariably cut a swathe through even the most fashionable and prestigious of gatherings to become a centre of fascinating, often outrageously politically incorrect (never malicious), but always intelligent conversation.

Stacey was born in 1920 at cated at the local Jesuit Gymnasium. At the age of 14 be entered the Academy of Commerce in Debrecen and, in 1939, came to England to study in the Faculty of Commerce at Birmingham University. Within weeks of arriving he was enlisted into the Warwickshire Civil Defence to become a driver for a surgical mobile bus unit, opening in the Birm-ingham region. He was very proud of the Defence Medal he received at the end of the war - "How's that for a bloody foreigner!", he would fondly

In 1945 he joined the editorial staff of the Financial Times and became a specialist in such diverse subjects as Britain's waterways, canals and international trade. For five years, until 1951, he was assistant secretary and public relations officer at the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, where he also became editor of its journal, Certified Accountant.



Stacey, 'peaceful' mergers

During this period he studied at the London School of Economics, joined the Fabian Society and, at the age of 26, became a member of the postwar reconstruction committee, working with such luminaries as Lord Kaldor, Sir Christopher Christopher Saunders.

A Fulbright scholarship awarded in 1951 took Stacey to the Graduate Business School of Columbia University; there he researched the development of English accountancy and lectured on economic history. Thirty years later, he renewed his association with the Fulhright Commission when he became chairman of the Public Affairs Committee. During his seven years of chairmanship, to encourage the study of technology, he pioneered sponsorship and awards for short-term courses for young high-flyers in British industry.

After a year as assistant editor of *The Director*, Stacey joined the General Electric Company in 1955 as economic and marketing adviser. In conjunction with the Economist Research Unit, he invented and published the quarterly GEC Export Guide showing Britain's foreign trade performance in 38

In 1962 he was the founder chairman of Chesham Amalgamations and Investments, a pioneering UK merger and acquisitions company set up to assist in "peaceful" mergers and, in this respect, he and his colleagues played a small but significant role in the reorganisation of UK industry during the Sixties and Seventies, The company was unusual in dealing only with uncontested mergers, and so avoided the protracted battles that were often harmful to the companies involved.

When Chesham Amalgma-tions was sold in 1984, Stacey became chairman of the Cel-Sci Corporation, Virginia, a US company engaged in cancer and AIDS research; be instituted and financed research programmes at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital,

Nicholas Stacey was an intellectual, be was creative and innovative and the success and esteem he acquired in the world of business and finance was achieved by applying these talents - not so much to solve problems, as to discover possibilities. Unfortunately he was often outplayed by predatory asset strippers who were more concerned with large fees and igher dividends.

He believed passionately that husiness and industry should support the arts; equally, he believed artists should also be business-like - and not emulate the troglodytes he so aptly described in his book Living in an Alibi Society: a catalogue of pre-tensions (1989). In 1969 he became chairman of Trustees of the Society for the Promotion of New Music; he reconstructed the trust and successfully reorganised its financial structure. Under his chairmanship of the Appeals Committee, the Byam aw School of Art became

London's most successful pri vate art college. He was also a founder-trustee of the Bankside Gallery and council chairman of the Divertimenti string orchestra. Together with his wife, the flautist Marianne Ehrhardt, he organised regular concerts in London for the Ondine Ensemble - mostly performing music of the Belle Epoque - and Platform, a musical charity created specifically to perform contemporary, experimental music by young composers.

Stacey had no patience with the woolly-minded and disliked those who assumed influence and power through unearned privilege, particularly in the cosy "old boy" network that en-meshed the husiness world. Inevitably he made enemies and in 1984 be lost a fortune when some erstwhile friends and busiagainst him at Chesham to

force a disastrous sale of shares Ebullient, optimistic and with élan, he soon overcame what he liked to describe as "a little local difficulty with the natives". Another favourite quote was "when the writing's on the wall, don't forget to read the small print". Unfortunately he must have left his reading glasses at home when the Lloyd's debacle began to unfold and as a "name" he lost more than his tailored shirt. Nevertheless his joie de vivre, his sense of humour and enthusiasm for good conversation remained intact; Nicholas Stacey sought no alibis.

Nicholas Anthony Howard Szecsi (Stacey), journalist and businessman: born Debrecen, Hungary 5 December 1920; married 1954 Gloria Cooklin (marriage dissolved 1986), 1987 Marianne Ehrhardt; died London

his ill-health. Wilde might still

Osvaldo Soriano

Osvaldo Soriano was the leading literary figure to come out of the military dictatorship in Argentina in the 1970s. From journalism and high-profile writing in Jacobo Timerman's newspaper La Opinion, he was forced into exile, and into fiction.

He had written fiction and been published before he fled to France, then Belgium, where he met his wife, and then Spain. after the March 1976 coup. but it was exile that forced him to be a novelist. Writing and soccer were his two great passions. and it is difficult to guess which had the edge on the other. In exile he wrote for El Pais. in Madrid, and Le Figuro, in Paris.

English readers know him through his novel Fianny Dirty Little War published in translation by Nick Caistor in 1983. The book, an outrageously funny, and at the same terribly tragic, description of rival groups within Peronism vying for party supremacy and trying to inerpret the late General Juan Peron either as "revolution-ary" or as a Third World leader. when he was neither. The novel was made into a film in Argentina in the mid-1980s and delighted the small English au-

diences that saw it at the ICA. Soriano returned to Buenos Aires from exile just as soon as constitutional rule was restored. and joined the then newly launched Pagina 12 newspaper, a left-of-centre daily which gathered among its contributors some of the talent that had worked on La Opinion, Soccer remained to the end his

favourite topic in his columns. His shiny bald patch above an impish grin and a trim beard made him a familiar figure at book fairs and a carefully chosen number of social events. It was a joke among friends and colleagues that any meeting needing his presence had to be held in late evening for he slept much of the day and worked through the night. In December 1995 he and 23 others founded an association of independent journalists, Periodistas, which had as its mission to campaign against restrictions against the press. But he seldom attended meetings. complaining that, at three in the afternoon, they were too early.

His novels not in English include a blistering sneer at the military in Cuarteles de invierno ("Winter Quarters"), a postmilitary exploration of Argenti-("Soon You Will Be No More



Soriano: 'funny dirty little war'

than a Shadow"; also filmed | and A sus pies rendido un león ("At His Feet a Lion Surrendered"), a line from Argentina's national anthem. All of these were set in post-dictatorship Argentina, showing a society struggling with its memories and trying to come to terms with half a century of authoritarian rule. His last two books broke with that line in la hora sin sombra ("The Hour Without Shade") and Pirates,

Spooks and Dinosaurs. **Andrew Graham-Yooli**

Osvaldo Soriano, writer and journalist, born Mar del Plata, Argentina 1943; married 1978 Catherine Brucher (one son): died Buenos Aires 29 January 1997.

Ronald Mason

May I add a footnote to John Westminster Abhey guides, Tydeman's most evocative tired of having to make apoloobituary of Ronald Mason nies for the absence of my [20 January]?. writes Merlin grandfather Oscar Wilde in Poets Corner, wrote to Donald

In 1989 one of the official

Births.

Marriages

& Deaths

BAINES: Anthony C. (Tony) FBA. OLitt Oxon, Hon OMus Edinburgh, much-leved and leving husband of Pa-tricia, died peracefully on 3 February in Loadham Nursing Home, Faruham, Functal service on Tuesday 11 Feb-ruary at 2.30pm at Aldershot Cre-

his memory to the Bate Collection of

sie. St Aldates, Oxford OX1 IDB.

GROVES: Andrew, tragically, on 30

GROVES: Andrew, tragically, on 30 January, aged 30. Actor, Belowed son of Alan and Dorothy and very dear brother of Catherine and Peter, Funeral, Tue-day 11 February, at 1pm, at Christ Church, off High Street, Wanstead, London E11. All welcome, Family flowers only, but a collection will be made for Andrew's favourite charity. Enquiries to F&C. Wilters, U.J. High Street, Wanstead, London E11. Okt 1989 1626.

McWILLIAMS: On 31 January 1997.

at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cam-bridge, William (Bill), aged 64 years, of Cambridge, Husband of Brenda,

father of John and Carl, Funeral service at St John's Church, Hills Road, Cambridge, Wednesday 12 February, at 2.30pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, for the British Heart Foundation, may be made at the service or cell co. Thornally Funeral Sendors.

sent do Thornalley Funeral Services, 51.55 St James Street, Kings Lynn.

DEATHS

Birthdays

Robert Aikins MP, 51; Mr William Burroughs, novelist, 83; Mr Red Buttons, actor and comedian, 78; Maj-Gen Sir Simon Cooper, Master of HM Household, 61; Mr tan Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 79; Lord Gibson, former chairman, the National Trust, 81: Miss Susan Hill. novelist and playwright, 55: Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, former Master. Trinity College, Cambridge, 83; The Hon Douglas Hogg MP Minister of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food, 52; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, chairman, Services Sound and Vision Corporation, 67; Mr Mark Jones, Director, National Mu-seums of Scotland, 46; Mr Denis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 62-Mr David Martin MP, 52; Sir Andrew Morritt, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 59; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 77: Professor Adam

ENTERPRISE '95

'When the writing's on the wall, don't forget to read the small print': Stacey by John Warner

Mr Jack Aspinwall MP, 64; Mr

Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 74; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 51; The Very Rev Colin Semper, Canon

sador to Mexico, 65: Mr Arthur Sulzberger, former chairman and publisher of the New York Times. 71: Sir Rodney Sweetnam, former orthopaedic surgeon to the Queen, 70: Mr David Turner, cricketer, 48; Sir Leslie Young, chairman, Lan-

was in retirement and already

suffering quite hadly from

emphysema. Astonished, as

he put it so me, by this per-

of Westminster, 59; Mr Michael Simpson-Orlebar, former ambas-

Anniversaries

Births: Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, Marquise de Sévigné, writer, 1626; Sir Robert Peel, statesman, 1788. Deaths: Thomas Cariyle, author and film producer, 1988. On this day: the Spanish captured Minorca from the British, 1782; the Prince of Wales ("Prinny") was declared Prince Regent, 1811; the Sunday Telegraph was first published, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Adelaide of Bellich. St Agatha, St Avitus of Vienne, St Bertulph or Bertoul of Renty, Saints Indractus and Dominica and St Vo-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS HOYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen vails the MIND Centre, Heacham, Notfalk, The Prince of Weiser, Patron, amends the immedof the British Hone Success's lipsilee Year at the
Royal Mess, Packongkam Palace; and Launches"Malang Mined the Hapmen", a joint urban regeneration mutative of the Urban Villagus Fortsatt
and English Partnerships, at the German Cymnashina Loudren WVI. Prince Edward, Trodee, the
Dule of Ediphurph's Award, attender The Magpillasant 7" Danner at the Hyart Carlton Tower Hotel, Livadon SWI. The Printers Rayal, Prindeds,
the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council,

vists Jun Jame Group, London NI; and open now extension of the Royal College of Physical Regent's Park, London NW1. The Dake of Glor tes, President, the Britain-Nepal Secretary

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy Mognied Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Home Guards. Ham: 1st Battalion Scote Count is majoris the Queen's Guards in Backingham Palace, 11.30ast, hand provided by the Webb Guards.

He in turn got in touch ceived slight on a fellow Irishwith Ronald, who by then man, he drew on many years of friendship with leading figures in the literary and theatrical world asking for their support in a proposal

to the Dean and Chapter. The Dean, Michael Mayne, a former Head of Religious Programmes and a colleague of Ronald's, was enthusiastic about including Wilde in the

left his joh as a seaman. On 1

August, he moved to Berlin and

applied for an unlimited resi-

dence permit for the purpose

of engaging in gainful em-ployment on land. That appli-

cation was refused by the

competent authorities of the

Land Berlin. The legality of that decision was confirmed by

the Verwaltungsgericht and

Oberverwaltungsgericht Berlin.

Bundesverwaltungsgericht re-

ferred the matter to the Euro-

pean Court of Justice for a

ruling on the intepretation and

effect on this case of article 6

of Decision No 1/80 of the

Council of the EEC/Turkey

The Council was established

under the Agreement estab-

lishing an Association between

the European Community and

Turkey, signed at Ankara oo 12

September 1963, and con-

cluded on behalf othe Com-

munity by Council Decision

Association.

On Mr Tetik's appeal, the

newly commissioned south transept window in time for the centenary of The Importance of Being Earnest. Without Ronald Mason's

be waiting. The ceremony on 14 February 1995 drew the biggest Poets' Corner crowd since Byron's inclusion in the

Turkish worker had right of residence while seeking work LAW REPORT

Terik v Land Berlin; European Court of Justice; 23 January 1997

A Turkish worker who had been legally employed for more than four years in a European Union member state enjoyed a right of residence in that state enabling him, if he decided voluntarily to leave his employment, to spend a reasonable period seeking new employment, provided he continued to be registered as belonging to that state's labour force and complied with the relevant requirements of its em-

ployment legislation. The European Court of Justice so ruled on a reference by the German Bundesverwaltungsgericht in the case of Recep Tetik, a Turkish national.

Mr Tetik had been legally employed as a seaman on various German ships, obtaining from the German authorities successive residence permits, each for a specified period and limited to employment in shipping. His last permit was valid until 4 August 1988 and stated that it would expire on cessation of his employment in 5 February 1997

On 20 July 1988, Mr Tetik 64/732/ EEC of 23 December

According to that agreement, "the contracting parties agree to be guided by articles
48, 49 and 50 of the [EEC
Treaty] for the purpose of progressively securing the freedom of movement for workers between them".

Decision No 1/80 did not give Turkish workers full freedom of movement within the Community but it did confer certain rights on Turkish workers in a member state which they had lawfully entered and in which they had been legally employed for a certain period.

The court had consistently held that the rights which article 6 of Decision No 1/80 conferred on a Turkish worker in regard to employment necessarily implied the existence of a right of residence for the person concerned. Article 6 had direct effect in the member states and Turkish nationals who sat-

therefore rely on it before national courts. The situation at issue in this

case was that of a Turkish worker who, having been legally employed for almost eight years in a member state, enjoyed "free access . . . to any paid employment of his choice" in that state, pursuant to the third indent of article

Under that provision he had not only the right to respond to a prior offer of employment hut also the unconditional right to seek and take up any employment he chose, without any possibility of this being subject to priority for workers from the member states.

The court had already held, with regard to the free movement of workers who were nationals of member states, that article 48 of the EEC Treaty entailed the right for such workers to reside in another member state for the purpose isfied its conditions might of seeking employment there.

In accordance with the EEC/Turkey Agreement, the principles enshrined in the Treaty provisions on the free movement of workers who were nationals of member states must, so far as possible. inform the treatment of Turkish workers who enjoyed the rights conferred by Decision No 1/80.

In order to give full effect to article 6. a Turkish worker must, after at least four years of legal employment in a member state, he entitled to reside in that state for a reasonable period while seeking new employment, since his right of free access to any paid employment of his choice within the meaning of that provision would otherwise be deprived of substance.

It was for the national authorities or courts of the bost member state to determine bow long that reasonable period should be, but it must be sufficient not to jeopardise the Turkish worker's prospects of

finding new employement. Paul Magrath, Barrister

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Triplex and Citigate rapped by Panel for leaking DTI letter

Patrick Tooher

The Takeover Panel yesterday took the unusual step of formally rehuking Triplex Lloyd, the Midlands engineer, and Citigate, its public relations adviser, for deliberately leaking to the press a draft letter to the Department nf Trade and Industry containing confidential information about hid target William Cook,

the steel castings group.
The Panel's ruling is the lat-

and will cause embarrassment to the Triplex Lloyd camp, which has still to decide whether to trump an £80m management buy-out led by Andrew Cook, William Cook's executive chairman. Triplex's takeover offer values William Cook at £73.8m.

"It is reprehensible, as in this case, intentionally to leak to the press during an offer a letter which contained references to a piece of confidential in-

est twist in an eventful takeover formation," the Takeover Pan- the el said. "Accordingly, both Triplex Lloyd and Citigate are

> sentatives and their advisers must take extreme care in discussions with journalists."
> Triplex and Citigate were found to have breached Rule 20.2 nf the Takeover Code

which concerns the "equality"

of availability of information be-

derstood that Schroders nuly "Companies or their reprediscovered that Triplex Lloyd and Citigate had agreed to leak the letter after it had already been shown to the press. Neither Triplex Lloyd nor Citigate plans to appeal against

The Panel said that on 30 January Triplex Lloyd's solicitors wrote a letter to the DTI which

Panel exonerated

Schroders, the merchant bank

advising Triplex Lloyd. It is un-

information passed to it by William Cook. The Takeover Panel said later that day, Citigate showed journalists at two national newspapers a draft of the letter, adding that Citigate was under instructions from Triplex to do so.

The next day the Financial Times and the Guardian quoted from a letter addressed to the DTI asking it to look into discrepancies in trading forecasts

before Triplex tabled its hid. The reports alleged that the

DTI had been formally asked to open an insider dealing inquiry into William Conk. The request was said to centre on William Cook's decision to buy back 5 per cent of its shares in October, just three days after issuing a downbeat interim trading statement.

Six weeks later, after Triplex Lloyd launched its hostile hid.

made reference to some of the made by William Conk shortly William Cook had become more confident about its prospects. The letter reportedy asked Ian Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary, to make an investigation under the 1985

Companies Act. Details of the financial information stated by William Cook in a memo to its bankers in September emerged after Mr Cook unveiled his MBO plan a fortnight ago. A document passed to the DTI prepared by

William Cook to help secure a £22.5m credit facility appeared to show the company forecasting increases in profits and turnover for the year to March 1997. The letter questioned whether this was inconsistent with William Cook's interim statement.

William Cook acknowledges that a request has been lodged with the DTI to investigate the company but denies any im-

Next faces City backlash over top job for Wolfson

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale. the chairman of Next, yesterday risked accusations of nepotism after his son was promoted to the main board of the £2hn retail empire at the age of just 29.

The controversial appointment means Simon Wolfson is almost certainly the youngest director of a FTSE 100 company. He joins a small band of young husinessmen who have been promoted to the boards of large companies by powerful fathers. Others include Robert Hanson at the Hanson conglomerate and the late Simon Weinstock at GEC.

The young scion of the Wolfson dynasty has never worked outside Next and has only six years' business experience. He will be one of just five executive directors at the company with responsibility for sales and marketing as well as the development of the Next hrand.

His appointment is another example of the continuing close links between Next and Great giant. Lord Wolfson, 61, is man's appointment, it was the potential storm Mi chairman of both companies, mine. Simon's introduction to having taken over from his cousin at the helm of GUS in

saying it "left a bad odour" and

One of Next's largest shareholders said: "On the surface it does seem a hit unusual. But Next has made such progress since it clawed itself back from the brink that you tend to give it the benefit of the doubt.

Another fund manager at a hig institution was more doubt-ful. "Things like this normally leave a rather bad smell. I would think there would be a certain amount of disquiet about it." Retail analysts said the young

Wolfson was unknown in the

City and had never appeared at Next's presentations to analysts. Nick Buhb of MeesPierson said: "I'm told he's very capa-ble and that David Jones [Next's chief executive] thinks highly of

him. But given the accusations about nepotism one would have thought that they would want to be doubly sure of his abilities." Mr Jones said the company had been conscious that the appointment might attract sug-gestions of nepotism. But he

the company and his promotion have been at my instigation. He eptember. is an outstanding young man Next's institutional investors and if you don't look after your and City analysts expressed young people, you lose them."

The appointment was proposed by Mr Jones and his felow executive directors at a board meeting last Thursday then approved by the entire board

Mr Jones said he was surprised that Mr Wolfson appeared to be unknown to the City. "Over the past 12 to 18 months he has been exposed to retail analysts and shareholders. He is pretty well known to the majority of institutional shareholders and analysts."

Mr Wolfson joined Next in 1991 when he was 23. His first joh was as sales manager of Next Retail which then had 312 stores. When Next combined the retail division with the mail order division, Next Directory, in 1993 Mr Wolfson became sales and marketing director of the Next brand.

His 900,000 shares in the company were worth £5.07m at last night's closing price of 563.5p, down a penny. He also has options over a further 60,000 shares exercisable at prices between 237p-530p.

Wolfson's appointment could create by issuing the bare minimum of information. The Stock Exchange statement ran to only a few sentences.



Simon, son of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale (above), is to become an executive director a great deal more than this ofat Next despite concerns the appointment might attract suggestions of nepotism

Gulf increases offer for Clyde to 120p a share

City Editor

The finely balanced hid battle hetween Gulf Canada and Clyde Petroleum entered the finishing straight yesterday af-ter Gulf launched a final offer of 120p a share for its smaller British target and moved into the market to buy shares. The new hid, which replaces Gulf's 105p offer, puts a value of just under £500m on Clyde.

Gulf said it was confident it had pitched its new hid at just the right level to secure control and said it was surprised at how many Clyde shareholders had accepted its cash offer in early dealings yesterday morning. given rumours in the market that a third-party bid might emerge at the eleventh hour. By the close of play yesterday afternoon it had mopped up 15 million shares, or just under 3 per cent of Clyde's equity.

JP Bryan, chief executive, said he thought a rival bid from a "white knight" was unlikely. Gulf cannot now increase its offer unless another hid is announced before 18 February, the end of the official 60-day of-

Malcolm Gourlay, chairman real, it is substantial and it belongs to our shareholders. Gulf Canada is a highly leveraged vehicle that can't afford to pay full value for Clyde. Clyde is worth

Institutional shareholders, who had previously expressed unwillingness to accept an offer pitched at less than about 135p, were yesterday consider-ing their options, although the major players who will decide Clyde's fate are unlikely to make a final decision for 10 days or so. More than half Clyde's shares are held by Schroders, PDFM, Capital Group of the US and Norwich Union. About two thirds of the equity is in the

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hands of seven fund managers. Analysts thought Gulf might have done just enough to clinch victory yesterday after a strong offer document attempted to dismantle the main planks of Clyde's recent defence. In the market. Clyde's shares moved 2.5p higher to 120p as dealers weighed up the possibility of a white knight with a potential fall in the shares if the hid failed to persuade shareholders.

Gulf said its new offer represented 100 per cent of a net asset value figure signed off by ERC, an oil industry consultant commissioned by Clyde to assess its value. By contrast, Gulf said, contested offers for oil exploration and production companies over the past 12 years had gained shareholder support. of Clyde, responded: "Clyde's at an average 75 per cent of such

Gulf criticised ERC's base asset value of 120p, saying it relied on unrealistic discount and inflation rates and over-optimistic exchange rate assumptions and oil price forecasts.

PIA members threatened over pensions review

Nic Cicurtti Personal Finance Editor

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services regulator, is poised to mount a crackdown on thousands of its members if they fail to meet a new end-nf-year target for resolving the pensions compen-sation scandal.

Among the measures being considered is the barring of in-dependent financial advisers from working in the financial services industry. Life companies, whose directors cannot be banned in the same way, could face big fines for failing in re-

solve pension reviews.

Meetings with individual companies, including nearly all of the 26 firms named in a leaked report to the Independent last year, have been held in receni weeks. One company executive, who would not be named, said yesterday: "They did not specify what they had in mind, but we were left in no doubt that action is planned." The new crackdown follows the PLA's admission last Nomore than a year behind a De-cember 1995 deadling for resolving the problem.

Nigel Chambers, a director of Chambers Townsend Consultancy, which supplies software review systems to more than 30 top life and investment com-panies, said: "I have heard reports from some executives whn said that this was one of the most unpleasant meetings they have ever attended. The PIA did not seem to understand

what it was asking to be done." Allied Dunbar, one company which has met with the PIA, said yesterday its discussinns had been useful. Stuart Reynolds, divisional director of Allied Dunhar's legal department, said however that the PIA's target

would be difficult to achieve. One lawyer acting for several PIA members said: "The PIA is making veiled threats. But I think it would find it difficult to persuade even its kangaroo tribunals that members have breached rules if they are doing everything possible to

SFO director accused of contempt of court

George Staple, the director of the Serious Fraud Office, and four senior members of his staff were accused of contempt of court in the High Court yesterday over their conduct during the SFO's investigation into the Sumitomo copper dealing affair.

The charges were brought by Kay Accounting, an accoun-tancy firm whose offices in Radlett, Hertfordshire, were raided by the SFO in December. The SFO seized six comput-

ers and downloaded them to

copy stored information as part of their investigation into alleged manipulation of the copper trading market.

But Alun Jones QC, representing Kay Accounting, said in the High Court that the SFO had ignored the orders of two High Court judges who had granted injunctions to Jeffrey Green, head of the Hertfurdshire accounting firm.

He said Mr Justice Nelson had ordered the SFO to cease downloading the computers un-

loading continued up to six rants declared unlawful. hours after the order was made and no disclosure was made to Mr Justice Tucker. He allowed downloading to continue but the information was to be sealed and

the computers returned. Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Scott Baker are hearing proceedings against in Staple and Andrew Jackson,

He is claiming they were granted by City of London Magistrates because the police and SFO did not tell them that Kay Accounting was a rep-ulable firm and Mr Green a man of good character. Mr Green was never under investigation as part of the Sumitomo investigation. Edwin Glasgow QC, for the

soon as possible. The downloading of the computers was carried out automatically in a locked room and when the order was received, the staff had left the office for the weekend.

Mr Glasgow said that as soon as it was known that the judge's order was to discontinue further downloading, a fax was sent to Authentee, the firm where the copying was being done, or-dering them to suspend work.



George Staple: One of five SFO staff in the High Court

Tax bonanza for ex-C&G savers

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Members of former huilding society Cheltenham & Gloucester have been saved millions of pounds by a ruling against the Inland Revenue over the tax treatment of cash bonuses.

The money was a payment to the members by Lloyds Bank, when it took over C&G. But the Inland Revenue decided last spring the bonuses were chargeable to capital gains tax, bringing an unexpected hill in thousands of people - who now stand to receive tax rebates. Neil Denniss, senior tax manInland Revenue by 150 C&G in-

He raised a fighting fund of £16,000 and launched an appeal to the Special Commissioner of Income Tax. The case was heard in the names of two women ac-

count-holders. The commissioners backed two separate arguments made by Mr Denniss. They said that bonuses paid on deposit accounts should be totally free nf tax, contrary to the nriginal Inland Revenue ruling.
They also said that honuses

ager in the Cheltenham office paid on the separate category of the accountants Clark White-hill, organised a challenge to the allowed indexation relief, which Mr Denniss said would substantially reduce or even eliminate the capital gains tax

> C&G's 800,000 savers received cash bonuses worth an average of £2,200 each in 1995 when the society was bought by Lloyds. Mr Denniss estimated that tens of thousands of people could be eligible for a capital gains tax rebate or would not

have to pay at all.

It is believed that at feast 40,000 members received bonuses of more than £6,000, an appeal.

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the level of the annual exemptinn below which capital gains tax is not charged.

Mr Dennis said that because there were a large number of cases of multiple accounts held by one person, many people re-ceived £10,000 to £13,000 and he knew of one person with a £40,000 honus. He added: "This should set a precedent for

others in a similar position." The Inland Revenue has the right to appeal within 56 days. A spokesman said it was "considering the commissioners' de-cision". No decision has been taken on whether there will be

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Slower sales of receivers send Pace tumbling

Nigel Cope

Slower sales of digital satellite receivers and the adverse effect of the strength of sterling on profits sent shares in Pace Micro Technology into free fall esterday. The shares lost 25 per ent of their value to close at 169.5p, below the issue price of 172p when the company came to the stock market last June.

The City was further disap-pointed when Pace gave no news on the possible contract with BSkyB in make set-top boxes for digital television. Pace is one of several hidders including Panasonic and Nokia which have made hids for the potentially lucrative contracts. Pace said digital satellite re-

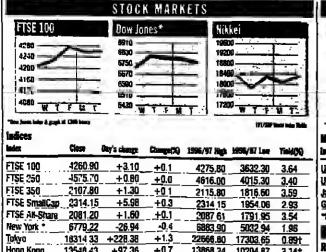
ceiver shipments were lower in the six months to January than in the previous half-year. This was due to slower growth rates being achieved by broadcasters as digital markets developed world-wide. The company said it expected to reach its original hudget for the year hut did not anticipate any overperformance

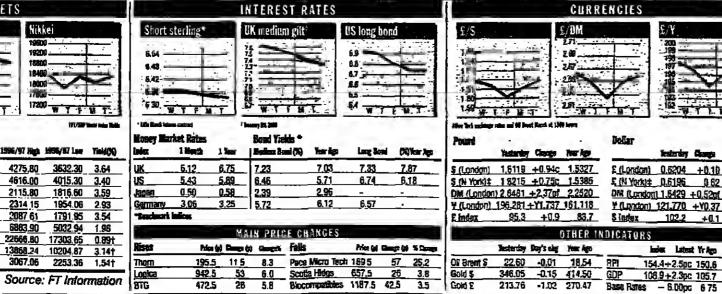
from new contracts. Brokers dramatically reduced their full-year forecasts with Credit Lyonnais cutting from

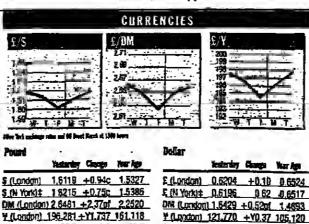
Commenting on the bid to win the set-top box contract, Mike Styles of Crédit Lyonnais Laing said: "It's going in be a hruising hattle against the biggest players in the industry such as Goldstar, Nokia and Panasonic. It is essential Pace secures the deal in its home market and gets the BSkyB endorsement for its technology."

Barry Rubery, Pace's man-aging director, said he was confident Pace would win contracts to provide up to half of the miltion decoders BSkyB was expected to order: "I would be surprised if we weren't a supplier. We've been developing the product semi-speculatively for the past six months and we're close to Sky as we provide the majority of analogue decoders.

He said it was a case of "when, not if" the company would bencfit from the digital revolution in television. The company announced a hig contract vesterday with General Instruments to develop and sell digital cable technology in the US. Pace's profits in the six months to Norom £400,000 last year. Sales were almost double at £117m. Investment column, page 20







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COMMENT

'it was the dream of Lord Weinstock and Lord Hanson to hand an empire on to a son. and an uncomfortable yolk it proved to be. Simon Wolfson may yet have cause to rue

his famous father

A retail family affair that could end in tears

er, that's it.

The retail empire Next is famously economical when it comes to communicating with the ontside world. So it proved once again yesterday after the above two-line announcement flashed bashfully up on dealers' screens just after 8.30am to be followed by complete radio silence.

Hang on a minute, though, isn't there someone called Wolfson already running Next? Oh very well. Since you ask Lord (David) Wolfson of Sunningdale is the chairman. And is he by any chance related to Simon? You'll find they're father and son. Sorry to push you on this hut do you have a few more details about Simon? Such as? Well, such as his age, his business back-

ground, his retail experience and what qual-ifies him to help run a £2bn Footsie 100 company apart from an accident of birth? m. We'll have to get back to you. And get back, finally, they did in the per-son of the chief executive, David Jones, to reassure us that nepotism has no place at Next. Lord Wolfson had nothing to do with

the appointment, having relinquished his executive responsibilities last August to go

from his cousin, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone. What's more, Simon may only be 29, but boy has he worked miracles for the company since he joined six years ago fresh from university. Just ask any analyst or shareholder who has met him.

عبكذا من الاعل

Yesterday, they proved to be rather thin on the ground, Simon being as much an unknown quantity in the City as he was for most of the day to the Next publicity machine.

The appointment may not have been directly in Lord Wolfson's gift but his presence looms large at Next as one half of the duo that rescued it from the wreckage left behind by George Davies. Il is is hard to resist the conclusion that Next has decided. like father, like son.

It was the dream too of Lord Weinstock and Lord Hanson to hand an empire on to a son, and an uncomfortable yolk it proved to be. Simon Wolfson may yet have cause to rue his famous father.

A torrent of oil misinformation

The half dozen fund managers who will ▲ decide Clyde Petroleum's fate face an unenviable challenge in separating fact from fiction in the torrent of misinformation and vestor has learnt to take both sides' arguments with a bucket of salt.

The old adage about damn lies and statussle, with investors treated to the full panoply of arcane valuation methodologies and test-well data.

with Gulf's acquisition in the market vesterday of 15 million Clyde shares paraded on the one hand as Clyde's shareholders throwing in the towel and on the other as a dismal failure of a dawn raid, no more than the shaking out of a handful of arbs. With Clyde's fate so finely balanced, there won't be any let up for the forked tongues for the next two weeks.

Clyde, whose directors sold shares just hefore the hid at around 80p, has plainly made some ambitious claims about its value, used some pretty heroic assumptions to get to figures as high as 160p a share and taken a rosy view of a hole in the North Sea bed that BP among others was happy to let go

for a relative song.

Gulf and its advisers have been equally selective, however, and made some sweep-ing criticisms of Clyde's numbers on the basis of sketchy test data bought off the shelf from the DTL In cases such as this, the share price

manipulation of data, the non-specialist in- PDFM, who own a third of the company between them, don't nibble the shares could soon be back below a pound. If a rival bid doesn't emerge by the end of the week, selltistics has never been more true than in this) ing in the market seems the best option.

A tale of two The spin doctors have had a field day 100. | rate-rise decisions

> The amazing record of the US economy I in achieving steady growth and hiw inflation for more than five years is often chalked up to the skill and judgement of one man. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan. In the UK, too, the responsibility for steering the economy rests with just one person. By chance Kenneth Clarke and Mr Greenspan are both considering this week whether or not they will have to raise interest rates to counter future inflation. As the meeting today between the Chancellor and Eddie George draws to an end, the Fed's Open Market Committee will be starting its sec-ond day of deliberation.

Although on each side of the Atlantic one individual holds the reins, there could not be a greater contrast between the way monetary policy is set. For one thing, it is a fairly safe bet that UK base rates will not change after today's meeting. Everything the Chancellor fiction in the torrent of misinformation and since of the best guide but at 120p last night, has said recently points that way. In the US for a desperate Covernment. Cha saide innuendo that both sides have produced bang on the offer price, it is as confused as on the other hand, there is real uncertainty the Chancellor's choices will not the run-up to yesterday's final 120p a share the rest of us. If there is a white knight it is about the outcome of the Fed's meeting. It is screndipitous as Mr Greenspan's. on the other hand, there is real uncertainty | the Chancellor's choices will not be as

off and take over Great Universal Stores offer from Gulf. With so much transparent | well submerged, and if Schroders and all depends on how Mr Greenspan reads the mixed signals on the economy.

Paradoxically, the near-certainty that UK rates will not move whereas US rates might rise reflects the fact the monetary policy in this country is far more arhitrary. Everybody knows that Mr Greenspan is an inflation hawk and that the Fed will exercise its independent judgement. If there is n true inflationary danger, it will tighten policy. The doubt is all about how the Chairman will interpret the data and how much the arguments of other members of the Open Mar-

ket Committee will influence him. On the other hand, the decision in the UK is opaque, taken entirely by Mr Clarke sub-ject to persuasion from his political colleagues. The advice from his officials in the Treasury, never mind the advice of the Bank of England, is neither here nor there. No doubt many of the Chancellor's remarks, recorded in the published minutes of his meetings with Mr George, are made on the hoof and left to the Treasury to justify later.

With no restraints on his judgement, the nearness of the General Election, the strength of the pound and the mixed recent statistics will allow Mr Clarke to overturn the increasingh forthright advice of the Bank of England, if he wants to, for the fourth month running. The system of monetary meetings and published minutes is proving no match has said recently points that way. In the US | for a desperate Government, Chances are

PepsiCo

profits

plunge

on poor

sales

The woes of PepsiCo were

underscored yesterday when the company revealed that prof-

its plunged 85 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year due to its struggling restaurant di-vision and poor results in in-ternational drink sales.

The dismal news further de-

pressed the shares of PepsiCo.

which for months have been

eclipsed by the continued rise

of its arch-rival, Coca-Cola, In

morning trading in New York yesterday, PepsiCo shares were

down 75 cents at \$33.375.

David Usborne

Power struggle may see Lazards run by committee

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Michel David-Weill, the legendary financier who runs the Lazard investment banking empire, may set up a committee of three to five bankers to run the group rather than hand over power to a single individual.

This could be one possible solution to the struggles over the successioo that have seen Mr David-Weill fall out spectacularly with his dashing young son-in-law, the French banker Edouard Stern, until recently

the favourite as heir apparent. In an interview to be pub-Weill says the Lazard group hased in Paris, London and New York - has grown so big

that he is oow unsure it can be run by one man.

He says he is no longer cer-

the next generation is the same

structure as today.

One possibility is to run Lazards through a group of bankers, one each in the three main centres and one or two others "not running offices, but with more ideas, more capitalminded," Mr David-Weill says.

Vanity Fair is unlikely to be pleasant reading to Mr David-Weill. One source calls him a ruthless operator who "enjoys setting people up against each

He is also described by colleagues and acquaintances var-iously as chilling, mean, cold and manioulative.

the US magazine, Mr David- didates for the new Lazards committee suggested by Mr David-Weill include David Verey, chairman of the London hank, Ken Wilson, the former Salomon Brothers banker who has an influential role in New tain that "the best structure in York, and Steve Rattner.

· Beck Food Group, whose chairman Morris Bond last year

handed out £10,000 worth of prime Scottish beef outside the House

of Commons to highlight the Government's inaction on the BSE

crisis, has appointed Price Waterhouse as administrative receivers.

The group hlamed the collapse on the loss of a £20m contract to

supply Tesco, resulting in 160 lay-offs at its Scottish plant. The receivers warned "significant redundancies" were likely. Beck em-

· Oil exploration activity in the North Sea unexpectedly incre

101 new wells were started in 1996, an 11 per cent increase on its previous forecasts and up from 83 in 1995. Overall, the level

of exploration drilling surged by almost a third as operators at-tempted to replace dwindling reserves. The group predicts that

The Securities and Investments Board warned investors of the pitfalls of doing husiness via the Internet. The City regulator said

dealing with unauthorised firms over the Internet may deprive

investors of the opportunity for redress or compensation should

things go wrong. This is the first time the regulator has issued warnings via its website http://www.sib.co.uk. The SIB also warned

Bell Cablemedia, the cable telephones and television opera-

tor in the process of joining the £50n merger with Mercury, yes-terday revealed that losses last year had almost doubled, from

£47.4m to £95.7m, reflecting its £685m takeover of Videotron.

The deal which paves the way for the creation of the new merged

group, Cahle & Wireless Communications, which also includes

another cable company, Nynex Cable Comms. As a result of the

Videotron deal, Bells' revenues also surged by 78 per cent to £76.9m, with the strongest growth in telephone income, which increased by 84 per cent to £43.4m. Excluding the impact of Videptron, Bells' residential telephone lines increased by 60 per

cent, to 158,207. Including Videotron, cable television customers

• The telephones watchdog, Oftel, has ordered British Telecom to offer to lease out its international private phone circuits to competitors at cost-based wholesale rates. The move, part of a wider examination of BT's wholesale charges for rivals which have to

use its oetwork to complete calls, is likely to give a further foothold

German industrial production rose higher than expected in

December. German government statistics showed that industrial

output increased by 1.4 per cent in December 1996, after a 0.9

per cent increase in November - a total increase of 3.3 per ceot

since last year. However the initial output data for December is

economy is still much weaker than yesterday's statistics suggest.

Bass said it had completed the merger of its Prague Brew

eries offshoot with two regional brewers, creating the Czech Republic's third-largest brewer. Combining Companies Ostravar and Pivovary Vratislavice and Nison with Prague Breweries will give

• Freepages Group, a telephone-based ad group, is to raise £40m m an international public offering on the US Nasdaq market.

the enlarged group a 14 per cent market share, Bass said.

to operators who "resell" capacity at bargain rates.

about schemes that offer high rates of investment returns.

activity will increase slightly this year.

almost doubled, to 315.323.

It was Mr Ratmer who had a very public falling out last year with his senior colleague Felix Rohatyn, the doyen of the Lazards New York office.

Mr Rohatyn described Mr

Rattner, in remarks published m New York magazine, as a "mono-maniacal" social climber and went on to accuse him of leaking information, which he denied. This spat between two senior

men revealed to the banking world that life was far from harmonious at the top of Lazards, and that there might be a suc-But the clearest indication of ficulty came in a row year between Mr David-Weill

> less names Mr Stern as still among the candidates for the top at Lazards. In his interview, Mr David-

and Mr Stern, who is married

to Mr David-Weill's daughter,

Beatrice. The article neverthe-



Looking abead: Michel David-Weill believes Lazards may have become too large to be run by one man

reports that he had a hlazing row with Mr Stern, who announced he was quitting and was allegedly told by his father-

in-law to go ahead and do it.
"We had a conversation about his future, which went

Weill denies French newspaper on the telephone, no fight at all, says, the article, is that Mr, the family bank, that for the time being he pre-Stern's abusive manner and his ferred concentrating on investments," Mr David-Weill says. Vanity Fuir suggests the root

of the argument is that Mr Stern threatened to leave if he was not put in control. Bul the very well. And then he told me problem for Mr David-Weill,

arrogance have "continually unset the fragile ecosystem at Lazards". Mr Stern is nevertheless still working in the Lazards group.

Mr David-Weill, 64, was the man behind the resurgence of family dynasty of Rothschild.

London, Paris and New York arms of Lazard together again in 1984 for the first time since the war, through the purchase of half the London operation from Pearson. Since then, the group has outshone the rival

chase, New York, reported that nct income for the last three months of 1996 fell to \$28m (£17.3m), or 3c a share, compared with \$181m in 1995. It said that for all of 1996, profits slipped by 28 per cent to The difficulties were traced

in part to sluggish trade at two of PepsiCo's tast-food chains, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. The news sours last month's announcement by PepsiCo that it planned to spin off its restaurant division which also includes Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The company was also hurt in the fourth quarter by disappointing international sales in ns core beverage division, which includes its flagship Pepsi Cola drink. Outside the US, beverage sales were off by 9 per cent in the last quarter and by 2 per cent for the year as a whole. The campaign early last year to boost Pepsi sales through an extravagant changeover from red, white and blue cans to an allhlue colour scheme apparently made little impact.

PepsiCo suffered particularly badiy in Latin America. Its worst experience was in Venezuela, where its long-time hottling partner switched overnight to Coca-Cola.

The decline gives a further edge to Coca-Cola, which is already beating Pepsi hands down in the cola wars in almost every part of the world. In the US, however, the race is a little closer, Indeed, Pepsi Cola North America thrived last year, with sales growing by 4 per cent and profits by 14 per cent. PepsiCo was also helped by North American sales of its Frito-Lay snacks brands, Overall sales for the group in North

Veba search for partner signals split with C&W

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

ploys 338 at a slaughterhouse and packing plant near Perth and 167 in a meat processing, storage and packing business at Boston, Lincolnshire. Beck Foods Smoked Salmon is not involved in the Veba, the German utility giant, yesterday gave its clearest indication yet of the split with Cable & Wireless over the terms of last year, ending a long period of decline which began in 1991. Consultants Wood Mackenzie's annual drilling survey today says their Vebacom joint venture.

A spokeswoman for Veba confirmed that the group was looking for "a new interna-tional partner" in Vebacom and may buy out C&Ws 45 per cent stake in the venture. In a separate announcement C&W admitted it was dis-

cussing the future of its partnerships in Germany and the rest of Europe. The discussions are continuing and a more de-tailed statement will be made in due course," a spokesman said. Confirmation of the break-down lifted C&W'a shares by 15p to 479p, as investors hreathed a sigh of relief that a potentially huge drain on the

However, Veba discounted the idea that it was about to sell its 10.4 per cent stake in C&W. bought in December 1994 when Vehacom was formed, now worth £1.1bn_ "C&W like to do

group's cash reserves could be

things in phases and selling that stake would cause a lot of turbulence," said one observer.

Earlier, more details had emerged of the rift between C&W, Veba and RWE, another German utility, which last October stunned observers by joining the Vebacom alliance. RWE had previously been a partner m British Telecom's

German alliance with Viag, the diversified industrial giant. Separately vesterday BT and Viag said they had won the fourth digital mobile phone licence on offer from the German Government.

Senior sources close to C&W suggested that Vebacom, a relic of the Lord Young era at the group, had become an increasing liability as Dick Brown, the American who took over as chief executive last summer, sought to carve out a clearer European strategy. He has asked executives to judge each joint venture on the basis of whether it adds value to C&W's dominant European subsidiary, Mercury. "What C&W does in

Europe must benefit Mercury." said a source. The "Brown doctrine" ex-

plains the recent frosty relations between the English and German sides in the partnership. RWE and C&W had yet to sign contracts to extend Vebacom. which would have seen C&W's share in the venture drop from 45 to 25 per cent.

There had been disagreements over the precise wording of the various agreement documents, drawn up in German and English. A more fundamental rift was

over RWE's insistence that it invest at least DM8bn (£3bn) over the next five years in a fixed phone network. BT's earlier relationship with RWE had fallen apart in considerable hitterness over exactly the same issue. BT is thought to have been furious that RWE had apparently been privately negotiating to join Vebacom at the same time as developing the Viag

RWE's amhitions meant C&W faced the prospect of shouldering its share of losses in Vehacom for a long period. at the same time as completing its complex £5bn merger hetween Mercury and three UK

The Bank's daily money may-

Flat orders at odds with strong housing ments jumped from 3.11 per cent in November to 3.56 per

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

There was confirmation yesterday of the health of the housing market and an early in-dication of a pick-up in wages in industry at the end of last year. Bin a separate survey of manufacturing industry showed that orders were nearly flat or falling in seven of the UK's 11 regions, although output fell in only three areas.

New house-hudding starts

returned to their highest level for more than two years, having risen by a third in the year to the final quarter of 1996.
Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: Whether your home is a tlat or a castle or somewhere in between, morigage rates are low and affordability is excellent. The building industry is now sharing fully in the success of the

Separately, the Engineering Employers Federation reported that pay settlements in the last quarter averaged just under 3.2 per cent, a fraction higher than the previous quarter but down from 3.6 per ceot in the same period a year earlier. However, the level of settle-

cember settlements fell in the 3-4 per cent range, rather than 2-3 per cent as in the previous month. January will be a key month for pay, as it sees the largest number of deals each The Confederation of British

cent in December, Most De-

Industry and Business Strategies published its quarterly breaklown of industrial activity between regions. In the three months to De-

cember, companies in only four regions - the South-west, Wales, West Midlands and Northern Ireland - reported significant rises in orders. Manufacturers in the South-west were the only ones to report a significant rise in export orders.
Output fell in three regions.

Northern Ireland, the Northwest and the North. It grew most strongly in Wales, the South-west and the East Midlands. Yet eight out of 11 regions

showed an increase in business confidence compared with the previous quarter. Not surpristogly, businesses in the South-west were the most op-

America grew by 5 per cent to \$30,26bn. SIB takes High Court

Bank changes way interest rates are set

Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England will alter the way interest rates are set next month, but it intends to give the City's six discount bouses up to two years to adapt unreliable because of the long Christmas holiday. Most analysis expect the figures to be revised downwards, and believe that the to the new procedures, by introducing a package of transi-

tional arrangements. The discount houses, which are specialist hanks, have had a monopoly in daily dealings with the Bank of England in the bill market, where interest rates

But, as the Bank signalled last

financial institutions and also cal details had been "finemake use of the growth of gilt repos - deht backed by gov-

emment honds. Ian Plenderleith, executive director of the Bank of England, said the measures "should help to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the sterling money market in London".

The changes being implemented barely differ from those proposed in December despite the wide-ranging comments the Bank received from the markets about the plans. The main changes in De-

cember will be implemented as December, it intends to open up then proposed," Mr Plender-the market to a wider range of leith said. Some of the techni-

can signal changes to official tuned", he added. interest rates. Uotil now they have taken From 3 March banks, hudd-

ing societies and securities firms place at 9.45 am, noon and at 2 pm, with a late lending facilwhich are active in gilt repos or ity at 2.45 pm. hill markets will be able to take The new measures, published part in the daily money market operations provided they meet yesterday in a Bank of England certain criteria.

paper, will see the daily opera-Mr Plenderleith said the tions take place at 9.45, noon Bank had received applications and 2.30 pm, 10 minutes earlifrom institutions wishing to beer than originally proposed. A late repo facility, which the come counter-parties and said that later this month the Bank would conduct "dress rehearsals" of the new proce-

Bank originally proposed to offer at around 3.30 pm, will be made available between 3.50 and 3.55 pm, by which time settlement banks will have a clearket operations are a closely er view of their liquidity

action against firms

The High Court yesterday obtained agreements from two firms and two individuals not to undertake investment business in the UK. A third individual was ordered by the court not to

conduct business. The undertaking was given by David Rycott and his Anglo Scandinavian SL, Christopher Tomaszewski and Alexanders, an accountancy firm.

Anthony Lemon was ordered by the court not to undertake any investment business. The court action followed an

application by the Securities and Investments Board for an injunction against the five parties in respect of unauthorised investment business under sections 6 and 61 of the Financial Services Act. If the five breach the inter-

locking judgment they will be in contempt of court and could be liable to a fine or imprisonment. They may contest the injunction via the civil courts.

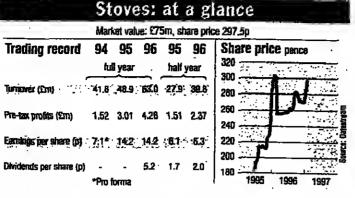
According to a recent report Anglo Scandinavian is a Spanish company which allows investors to speculate on the foreign exchange markets.

Stoves cooks up a storm as confidence returns

Stoves chief executive John Crathome describes the trading performance of his cookers group as "more measured" compared with the frenctic activity of last year. That is something of an understatement. The switchback performance of the shares since their floration at 163p in June 1995 came after initial euphoria was replaced by disappointment with the group's maiden figures for the first half of the 1995-96 year. A combination of rising raw materials prices, a hot summer and then a 60 per cent surge in demand meant Stoves struggled to cope. At the same time, a rising tax charge as the group's store of tax losses is used up has constrained earnings

Mr Crathorne and his team have clearly found life as a public company a little more distracting than they expected. But after a 7p rise to 297.5p vesterday, investors have little to complain about in the shares' near-45 per cent outperformance against the rest of the market thus far and there is still plenty of life in

the Stoves story.
Yesterday's 57 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £2.37m in the six own game. It reckons it has raised months to November came on the its market share by around 2 perhack of the first signs of revival in centage points to 18 per cent over consumer confidence for years. the past 12 months, mostly through



The group has already proved its

ability to take on international

groups such as Electrolux, GEC and

Whirlpool and beat them at their

Having risen by more than 4 per cent in 1996, Mr Crathorne is forecastgrowth in freestanding electric cookers, which saw a record number of product introductions. This proing another 5 per cent increase in duced a leaner margin mix, although the British cookers market over the next 12 months. With less than operating returns on sales still ad-5 per cent of Stoves' turnover going overseas, the group's heavy reliance vanced smartly from 5.5 to 6.1 per cent, boosted by the completion last on domestic sales should stand it in summer of the group's change-over good stead in the future. to its own revolutionary hrand of But that is the icing on the cake.

production technology.

Mr Crathorne says the rate of new product launches means the group will never he short of ways to squeeze out further efficiencies. Longer term, the launch into Germany later this month with a new it an opening price/earnings multi-range of electric models, to be followed soon by a move into France, standards, but Pace took the rating

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

together worth around four times and then heading towards 250p. that of the UK. Continental operations could take another two years to be contributing fully and Stoves may first need to use its minimal gearing to pick up a suitable brand name to tackle the notoriously xenophohie French market.

For this year, Kleinwort Benson, the group's own broker, is going for profits of £5.8m. rising to £7m next. putting the shares on a forward multiple of 19, dropping to 16. Hold on.

Sales slow down at Pace

With all the hullabaloo over digital television. Pace Micro Technology had been something of a go-go stock since it came to the stock market last year,

It was priced at 172p which gave

will open up two markets which are in its stride, rising to a hefty premium

Yesterday, however, the digital picture went decidedly fuzzy and the shares dived. The problems were two-fold. First the company's halfyear results included a number of downbeat messages which had an-

alysis cutting forecasts. Second, there was no news on the potentially huge contract Pace is seeking to make set-top boxes for digital television.

The result was a 25 per cent slump in the share price to 169.5p, the first time that they have fallen below the

issue price.

Although pre-tax profits in the six months to 30 November shot up from £400,000 to £10.2m, the market was more concerned by signs of a slowdown in sales.

Pace said that digital satellite receiver shipments were lower than in the previous half-year with slowerthan-expected growth rates. This, together with the impact of the strength of sterling, had analysts cutting their forecasts from £26m to £20.5m for the full year.

likes of far larger companies like Philips and Nokia.

Even after yesterday's fall, the shares trade on a forward rating uf 26. This reflects the possibility of the BSkyB contract win. If you believe a steady recovery in the prime retail, Pace can beat off the likes of Philips good-quality office and warehouse et al, yesterday's fall represents a good huying opportunity. It's a big if, however.

Ritblat rides the recovery

A string of acquisitions gave Conrad Rithlat a fillip in the six months to the end of November but growing investment income from the property portfolio was the main factor behind an impressive jump in profits. Turnover almost doubled to £13.9m as fee income rose by 82 per cent to other 4.5p on the day, the shares are £12.6m, but the 76 per cent jump in still only half their best level three years

Lewis, acquired in January last year. supplied and underworked.

On the set-top box contract, the contributed roughly half the volume City had been hoping for an announcement and some analysts feel that Pace needs to prove it can win contracts such as these against the contracts such as these against the been relatively pedestrian. But fee income is directly linked

FISE 350

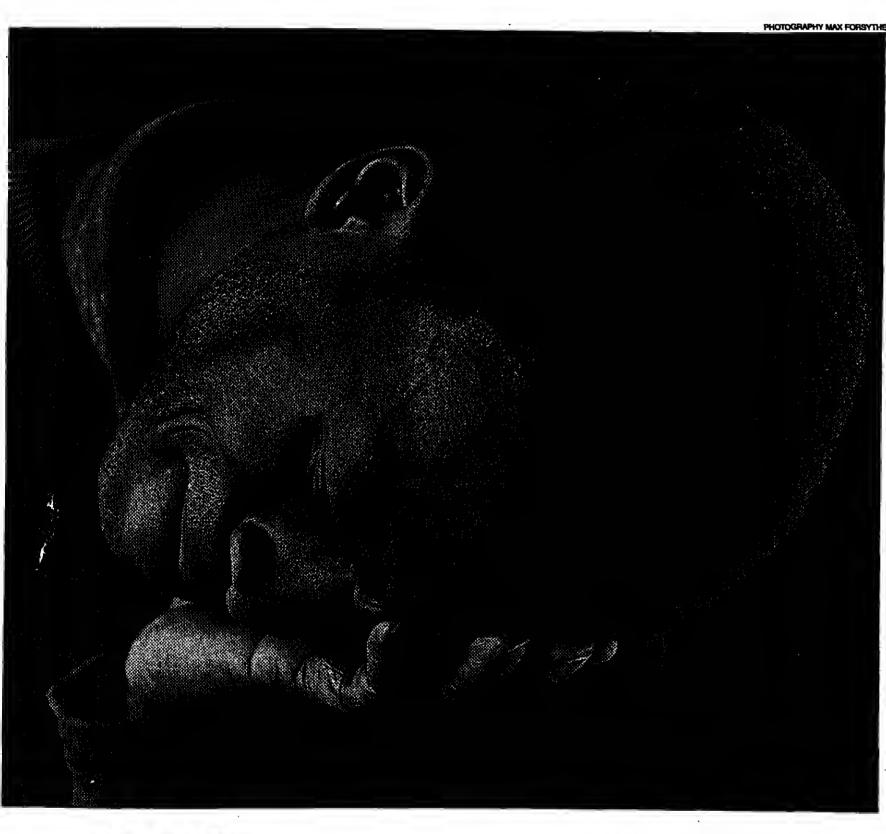
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Charge of

to the prosperity of the commercial property market as a whole, and and distribution sectors, which is now spreading across the country. .

Staff numbers have been cut by a further 5 per cent and the rational-isation of the group's West End offices is now complete, which places Conrad in a better position than many of its peers in what has been one of the hardest hit sub-sectors of the market during the recent slump.

A rise in the interim dividend of 20 per cent to 1.98p confirms the com-pany's confidence that things are finally improving in commercial property but broker Pannure Gordon left its forecast earnings for the full year unchanged at 19.3p. At 273.5p, up anprofits to £2.16m benefited from tre-bled investment income of £974,000. is hard to see much outperformance Considering that Colliers Erdman as long as the profession remains over-



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Every year at The Samaritans we receive over a million totally silent phone calls. For whatever reason, the callers can't begin to tell us what's troubling them.

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Lawson adds his weight to an ad campaign

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Nigel Lawson, Lord Lawson of Blaby, is about to star in a £2m TV ad campaign for M&G PEPs, marking the 10th anniversary of his introduction of such tax-free schemes when he was Chancellor.

This is the first time the dieting expert and former editor of the FT has appeared in a television commercial.

While PEPs have been a great success, attracting over £33hn from private investors since their launch in 1986, Lord Lawson is also famous for the Lawson Boom and subsequent Lawson Bust. Could this association dam-

age the campaign?
"Not at all," says an M&G spokeswoman. "We are appealing to potential PEP investors, particularly in the 30-45 age bracket, using the Chancellor who introduced the scheme. People will think:
'If they've got Nigel Lawson,
they must be hig'."

The first ad goes out in the
middle of the Channel Four

news at 7.40 next Monday evening. The spokeswoman describes Lord Lawson's role: "He's sat in huge room, there's lots of gravitas, he's a weighty character - ah, or not so weighty, as the case may be," she adds quickly, remembering Lord Lawson's recent, much publicised, decrease in

Today British Rail ceases to exist in name, and the Inter-City West Coast line will he

run by Stagecoach. This may come as a surprise to some people, as officially Virgin, National Express and Stagecoach are all still waiting to hear who has won the licence for the line. The an-

swer is due in May. The British Rail huffet attendant who served my colleague this week on the InterCity run from Manchester had other ideas. Asked who he should make his cheque payable to, the attendant replied: "British Rail. But from Wednesday you'll probably be writing them out

to Stagecoach."

Is this inside information? Or is the buffet attendant working under cover for a merchant bank to spread disinformation?

You can tell the battle for Scottish Amicable is hotting up - the mutual that wants to demutualise has just run an advert on page 35 of the Financial Times's company section, in which the company tells its members that its nonexecutive directors have no financial "interset" (sic) in the outcome.

Be that as it may, a lot of people in the City are Scot-Am policyholders and it's a hot topic in the wine hars of the Square Mile.

Charlie Touer. Abbey National's own deputy chief executive and a ScotAm

policyholder, is going to vote for the Abbey National offer - £400m for ScotAm's goodwill plus up to £1 bn for emhedded value.

Roman Cizdyn, insurance analyst at Merrill Lynch and another policyholder, is more sanguioe. Tve seen the letter in the FT. I'm waiting for ScotAm to contact me – just like everyone else is."
As for Abbey National's

£1.4bn offer, he says: "Let's see what's on the table first. There's no urgency. Charles Lander, insurance

analyst at SG Strauss Turnbull and also a ScotAm member, is more hullish. He describes the Abbey National offer as a "no-hrainer" - un-

Selection of the second



about to become a TV star

less a better deal comes along, that is.

The launch of the Bank of England's racy new monthly journal, Monetary and Financial Statistics, has got off to a wohbly start. On the spine of 'Volume 1 Issue 1" it describes the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street as the Bank of Englad." I'm sure this abbreviation is a commendable effort by Eddie George to save paper.

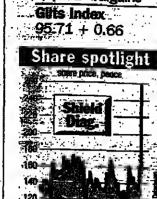
Gus O'Donnell, John Major's former press secretary, is leaving his job at the Treasury to become the head of eco-numics at nur Washington Embassy, Mr O'Donnell's job as deputy-director of macroeconomic prospects is being filled by John Canliffe, head of debt and reserves management. On being asked for a CV of Mr Cunliffe, a Treasury spokesman told me: "We don't have CVs for faceless hureaucrats like ourselves." I am delighted to hear from a fellow mandarin, however, that Mr Cunliffe is "quite highly regarded".

John Willcock

	Compa	ny Resu	lts	
	Turgover £	Pre-lax £	EPS	Dividend
Adsesse Group (1)	28.8m (22.5m)	2.78m (2.67m)	6 (p.(9.88p)	3.5g (3.5p)
Active imaging (F)	4.2m (5.1m)	-3.6m (-522,000		pi
Conrad Ribblet (I)	13.9m (7.2m)	1.35m (764,000)	6 Sp (4.6p)	1 98p (4 6p)
Games Workskop (I)	27.6m (19.5m)	48m (3.17m)	9.7p (6.6p)	2.6p (6.6p)
Stores (i)	39.8m (27.9m)	2.37m (1.50m)	6 30 (6.16)	- 2.0p (1.7p)

INDEPENDENT

Data Bank FTSE 100 4260.9 + 3.1FTSE 250 4575.7 + 0.8FTSE 350 2107.8 + 1.3SEAQ VOLUME 853.1m shares, 48,292 bargains



Healthy display from another medical high-flier

It was just like old times as the stock market alighted on a new wonder health share. Shield Diagnostic, which has bobbed around unconvincingly since arriving at 112p four years ago, was the attraction, shooting ahead 80p to a peak of 249.5p in a sudden burst of

busy trading. For long the potential star of its medical portfolio has been a test for measuring the pos-sibility of heart attacks.

It now seems the Shield rechnique could have made a crucial breakthrough. If it has the company should be on the verge of making a statement. Some believe Shield could become another British

Biotech which, despite its re-cent hesitancy, has made dramatic progress. Shield's development is a test for what is known as Activated Factor Twelve (AFT), which is one of the main components for blood clotting.

Measuring AFT, it is felt, could be the best indication of cardiac risk. The results of two trials are known to be due.

Earlier this month, Shield caught a chill when it warned of worse-than-expected losses. It blamed lower sales of medical kits for an increased interim deficit of £550,000, which prompted thoughts that its

year's loss could top fim. As Shield romped ahead another biotech high-flyer, Biocompatibles International, lost a little of its exuberance. The shares dipped 42.5p to 1.187.5p; they were 400p in the

Leading equities had an uncertain session. In early trading Footsie managed a oew high - 4,276.3 points - but uncertainty about the direction of interest rates took its inevitable had been cut back to 3.1 points at 4,260.9.

With US rates about to be



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MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

tions today and the Germans thought to be oear a rate cut. there was precious little incentive for investors to stir from the sidelines. Surprisingly, judging by the recorded volume, quite a few did, with sellers just about getting the

upper hand. British Petrolenm had a busy time with Lehman Brothers, the US investment house, said to have put an 810p target oo the shares. However some of the Lehman eothusiasm evaporated after another house, said to be Merrill Lynch, cast doubt on the buoy-ancy of the crude oil price. BP,

stock market reporter of the year decided. Ken and Eddie eo-during one of their confronta-a 7.5p gain at 748.5p. Clyde Petroleum edged ahead 25p to 120p on the higher bid from

Gull Canada. It was a day when high-fly-ers ran into profit-taking. Be-sides Biocompatibles, the seemingly unstoppable British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate slipped 36.5p to 1,301p and SmithKlioe Beecham and Zeneca fell back as the Roche analysts meeting turned out to be something of a noo-event.

Pace Micro Technology, ex-pected to produce the digital television decoders, slumped 57p to 169.5p after producing a profit warning. Maid gained 22.5p to 172.5p after rushing

out a trading statement to counter the share slide - from 315p in October. The on-line information group said trading was in line with expectations.

Provincial television groups staged a modest rally, with Scottish TV up 30.5p to 576.5p and Workshire-Tyne Tees 40 no 1,142.5p. The digital alliance was less robust, with BSkyB and Carlton Communications giving ground and Flextech and Granada achieving modest headway. BSkyB's 16p fall to 593p could have been influenced by confusing European Union moves to increase the spread of coverage for

major sporting events.

Cable and Wireless gained 15p to 479p as some won-dered whether the seeming break-up of its link with the German Veba group will open the door for a takeover bid. Veba says it intends to keep its 10.4 per cent Cable stake but could buy out the 45 per cent

held by Cable io a German telecoms venture.

Active Imagining jumped 20p to 97.5p after a company called TVX made a bid of around 104p a share. Bridon, the wire and rope group, rose 14.5p to 121p on talk that its second half had

been better than expected with the year's results at the top end of expectations, probably £11m. Northern Leisure, paying £2.65m for a nightclub at Barnsley, gained 4.5p to 212.5p. Stockbroker Redmayne Bentley forecasts this year's results at £7.95m with £10.6m next and suggests the

shares are a buy. Prestwick, the electronic group, added 5.5p to 42.5p as acquisitive TT, the mini conglomerate, lifted its share-bolding to 7.21 per cent. Circle Communications

continued to relapse following a profit warning, falling a fur-

The Independent Index

Prices are in stering except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up!

20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/exemple (P:E) ratio is the sha price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional dems.

Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market a Suspendi pp Partly Paid pm Ni Paid Shares ‡ AM Stock

Source. FT Information

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from L. Exchange Striply dust 0891 123 335, and when prompted to do, so enter the

3880000 Cariton Corres 1980000 British Steel 1980000 Cable & Yelle 1880000 Rentofol Initial 1210000 BP

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

10.00 42718 up 140

ryone with a tone-dist slephone can use the service. For e detail

T20000 200000

11.00 4273.3 up 15.5

☐ Friendly Hotels rose 7p to 165.5p; stories circulated it is near to unloading its troublesome office services business

and forging closer links with US group Choice Hotels International by taking on the management of some Choice properties on the Continent. Friendly first linked with Choice in April. As part of the deal the

Taking Stock

Americans took a 5 per cent stake in Friendly and pumped £11m into convertible preferred shares. The US group could end up with 28 per cent of the 30-strong Frieodly chain.

Calidore, a deal-maker, arrived oo AIM with the shares ending at 3.25p and the warrants at Ip. A share and warrant unit was placed at 2.5p. Damian Aspinall (Caverdale car group) and Anton Bilton, of the building family, are behiod the venture.

14,00 42722 up 14,4 15,00 42683 up 10,5 16,00 42659 up 8,1 Close 42609 up 3,1

during a visit to be their farm in Lichfel May Photograph?

Investment Companies 76 35 1 Hangmine 276 1-1 2 . 4278 12 8 J. Frappo 100 4 8 . 204 Light on

heavy on services. Lighter priced electricity from SWALEC could cut your company's bills by SWALEC

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sport



KEITH ELLIOTT at large

Welcome to the Independent Exercise Monitor, a unique opportunity to test your personal fitness at a glance...

Here's how it works. Award yourself five points for each of the following items in your home or office.

a) Bullworker;

b) Step machine; c) Video by Jane Fonda, Claudia Schiffer, Cher or similar (five points for each one, bonus five points for Barbie);

d) Video by the Green Goddess, Mr Motivator, Rosemary Conley or similar (five points for each one: lose five points for "Workout with Dawn French");

e) Exercise cycle;

f) Rowing machine: g) Weights;

h) Home gym;

i) Waistline reducer (any sort, five points for each model).

Add an extra 10 points for each one that you no longer use. Now award yourself five points if you have attended a health club or classes in aerobics, step aerobics, aquaerobics, anaerobics or jazz dance. Collect 10 extra points for each one that you have given up: Add up your total.

ongratulations if you have health service for women. Her first class was in the YMCA premises in topped 50 points. You are a fat, lazy sinh who still helieves every advert claiming: "Fitness in five minutes a munth." If there is a new wonder exercise gadget, you are the sucker at the front of the queue. Think about it: if all those classes, videos and gizmos worked as they claimed, you would nnly need one. They are merely gimmicks for the gullibie. Unless you are incredibly committed, nothing really works. Even those that do you good leave you feeling wrecked and smelling like a skunk on heat.

Well, that is what I thought until I gateerashed a Health and Beauty Exercise class. Yes, that's right: groups of women in black satin knickers and white blouses doing PE. But the oullits and music have changed, and the exercise regime that pro-dates aerobics by about 50 years is still going strong.

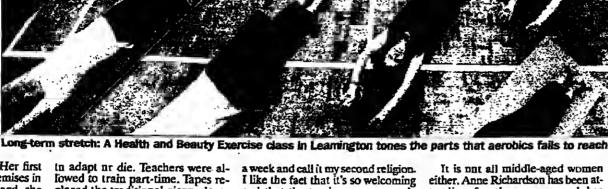
It was started in 1930 by the extraordinary Mary Bagot Stack, a suffragette who had a vision to enhance women's lives and improve their health at a time when there was no

London's Regent Street, and she publicised her Women's League of Health and Beauty by marching down Oxford Street and giving a demonstration in Hyde Park.

The emphasis was on exercising the whole body, improving posture and flexibility. With classes costing just sixpence, the movement was a huge success. It spread to Australia, New Zealand and Canada, (It has added South Africa, the Netherlands and Zimhabwe since). By 1939, the League had 166,000 members.

It was never to achieve those dizzy beights again, though the League, by then a charity, continued to be popular - until the advent of

per cent at that time. Unqualified people with enterprise were buying aerohics tapes and saying: 'I could run that class.' It really knocked us



lowed to train part-time. Tapes replaced the traditional piann player (though about 10 per cent of classes still use a pianist). Popular mu-sic replaced "I'll Take Ynu Hnme, Kathleen". Leotards replaced white hlouses and hlack knickers. Even the name was changed to reflect a more mndern image.

Today there are classes for chil-dren, the disabled, the elderly and even men (of which, more later). The League has high hopes it can play a key role in helping in the national cur-riculum for PE and dance in schools. Though it has shied away from advising on diet in the past, there are even plans for a promotion with Weight Watchers.

Jenny Dingley, who teaches in the Learnington and Coventry area, recalls: "My numbers dropped by the changes have taken place without alienating long-standing members some of the changes have taken place without alienating long-standing members. have been attending for 40 years. Eileen Crook, 71, is typical. She has only skipped classes for good reasons, like two hip replacements. "I started coming 41 years ago when I lived in Kent, and when I moved to Leam-The League realised that it had ington, I kept going. I still go twice year after year.

a week and call it my second religion. I like the fact that it's so welcoming and that the teachers are properly

gnne through a 200-hnur training procedure that retains many of Mary Bagot Stack's principles. Il inchides the theory of anatomy, physiology, hody mechanics, choreography and compositinn, teaching practice, vnice production and musical understanding. They have in attend two refresher courses a year, where prinfessinnal choreographers intruduce new routines and sequences to add interest. Many teachers, such as Jenny Dingley, go on to take further teaching and

dance certificates. Dingley, a dancer, saw a class when she was in her twenties and was captivated. "I decided: I want to teach this." She has been doing so for 22 years. "What I like about it is that people get their exercise, but there is no rigid regime and the classes have an ambience. For a lot of people, it is the social side that keeps them coming

It is not all middle-aged women either, Anne Richardson has been at-

tending for three years and has roped in her 21-year-old daughter, And how. All 400 teachers have Claire. "I like the style of it. Aerobics is just far exercise, but this emphasises stretch, halance and poise too, and it's aimed at the whole body. cycle, walk and tap-dance but I have doubled my mobility, and I have been surprised at how much fitter I have hecome. I come out not feeling exbausted hut invigorated, both physically and mentally."

This is all starting to sound un-comfortably like a plug for the League, but it is impossible not to be impressed by the enthusiasm, friendliness and that it looks like fun rather than punishment. Even women who are heavily overweight are not made to feel out of place. Many exercises are similar to those used by aerohics or dance classes, but there is an element of yoga, and everynne is harefoot (no trainers here, because the feet are exercised too). The work-out is altogether more gentle than aerobics and the music reflects this: it is not hard rock bul Riebard

Clayderman and Celine Dion, Robert

Photograph: David Ashdown

Miles or Gina G. In fact, I was lucky in watch a class at all, and the suggestinn that I might jnin in provoked the sort of response you would get from announcing a female judge for a small willy com-petition. Training and development officer Margaret Peegie likens it to women going down a coal mine. Especially for older women, the presence of a man changes things. They come in, strip down to a T-shirt and slacks nr a leotard and chat in friends

Dingley agrees: "We appreciate that men would benefit from this and the first male teacher has just qualified. But I wouldn't be happy bring-ing men intn an established class. Anyway, I think what I do is too 'floaty' for men. I think they want more circuit-training type exercise: this is more aesthetic, more dance." Ah well, back to the Bullworker.

More details about Health and Beauly Exercise from 52 London St, Chertsey, Surrey, KT 16 8AJ. Tel 01932 564567.

Girardelli to end brilliant career

gacing

Skilng

Marc Girardelli, the five times overall World Cup champion who has won more medals and titles than any other man, will announce his retirement next week. Sources close to Girardelli,

who has won 13 medals from six World Championships and three Olympics in a 17-year career, say the 33-year-old will make his decision public on Monday.

Although born in Austria, Girardelli raced for Luxembourg after falling out with the Austrian federation. An allrnunder, he has not competed since December, and although he had been due to defend his combined title at the World Championships this week, he did not go to Sestriere.

The Austrian team had a

promising day in the Italian resort yesterday, with Fritz Strobl leading six Austrians into the top seven places in the first training run for Saturday's men's down-hill. France's Luc Alphand, who leads the World Cup this season in both downhill and super-G, was the interInper, clocking the second fastest time.

Strobl, who has won two World Cup downhills this season, clocked 1min 55.88sec down the Kandahar-Banchetta course, over a two-mile track which has a vertical drop of 3,000ft. He was 0.11sec quicker than Alphand, who went into the event confident after winning the last World Cup downhill before the cham-

pionships. Werner Franz was third best, ahead Hannes Trinkl and Andreas Schifferer, with the defending champinn, Patrick Ortlieb, sixth. Teams are allowed four skiers per team, hut there are five Austrians because Ortlich qualifies in his own right.

Norway's Atle Skaardal, who won the super-giant slalom title on Monday and, like Alphand, has won three downhills this season, was 38th fastest. Some skiers use practice runs to survey the course rather than to

Times, Digest, page 25

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INDEPENDENT

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 26 JANUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINT
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	676
2	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	650
2	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHFILL EC.	650
4 .	MR SIMON LIU	OFFENCE ROVERS	647
S	MR S. KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	644
6	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSKO	647
7	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE F.C.	640
8	MR NICK KNIGHT	KINGHT'S MANA HEAD	436
9	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	435
10	MR J. GODWIN	NORVOOD	24
10	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	634
10	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER SC.	77 7 (Table 1)
13	MR GARY HAPPOWS	INI CTARC	470
14	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	- 34
ıs	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSE	N WASHTOP ARMY	429
16	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	626
16	MR R. PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	A28
16	MR R. RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	672
16	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 200	628
16	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLINGS STROLLERS	-628
21 .	MR D.J HORNBY	GOOD EVANS	627
21	MR G. MURFYTT	CLEAN SHEETS EC	627
21	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	CARRED D DOME COOKING	
11	MR BARRY LEE	LE MANOR	677
25	MR MARK SHELVEY	FORTRESS ROKER	626
5 .	MR K.B. MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	626
7	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	625
B	MK DARKEN NICHOLAS.	EDNA	624
3	MR KEITH WATSON	ELEMENTARY OPPORTUNI EDMO UNITED	
3 .	MR D. EDMONSON	EDMO UNITED	
	MR R. NORTHCROFT	I KNOW YOUR WIFE	624
5 .	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	
3	MR PETER SHERLOCK		
3	MR CM. DOWN	DEALS RESERVES	622 622
3	MR ANDREW BURHAN	WIMBLEDON STUPID HEAD	D\$ 622
33	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	
3		HAMMERS UNITED	
38	MR RAYMOND CHICKEN	ALLYE MEN FROM UNCLE	622
38	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	434
18	MR ANDY LANE	T ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	62t
41	MR M. CROSLAND		
4L	MR DARREN GREEN		620
41		POR THE AZORE	620
44	MR C . NOBEL	TO F.T	620
99 ₋ 44	MR IAN ZEIDER	THE POOTBALL BANDITS	610
	MR STEVE PAYNE	NO FUTURE IN FUCRAY	619
44	MR ANDREW GODDEN	F.C. ALERT	619
47	MR P. SRAI	DUNKIN IS THE BEST	618
47	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	618
47	MR DUNCAN FULLER		***
67	MR JOHN WANEING	4000 HOLES	618
47			
47 ·	MR D. ROBINSON	DOUBLED	618
47			
47	MR JOE GOODING	PELLICAN CITY TEAM SQUIDUPS	618

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PERLIPS

supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs. The Team Market and Scores table published be-

low, shows four scores. The Week 25 (Wk 25) column lists all points scored in matches played hetween Monday 27 January - Sunday 2 February inclusive. Column B lists all pnints scored hefore the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 2 Fehruary.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Indepen-

Sunday 26 January.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal = 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point or a draw \ Lose 1 point for a vellow card \ Lose 3 points for a red card

oday we publish the latest results in our dent Fantasy Football managers and their leams appear the following Sunday, in the Independent Independent Fantasy Football game, for matches played between Saturday 17 August - on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Funthall team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus enmpanion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each mnnth will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES A - After transfer period

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 FEBRUARY; WEEK 25 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 27 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY ORE PLAYER TEAM , FORMS WALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM , FORMS WALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM POINTS WALUE CODE PLAYER

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FROM 27 JANUARY : FEBRURY

Racing

As either Guinevere or Lancelot prepares to turn the mechanical separation of Britons weekly event this evening. there may just be hope that another ball has finally started to roll. Ladbrokes, the country's largest bookmaker, yesterday announced that it is to install Tote Direct betting terminals in every one of its 1,900 ontlets, and the possibility of a Lottery-style Superbet on rac-ing suddenly became a great

Until now, three of the four biggest betting-shop chains -Ladbrokes, William Hill and Stanley Racing - had held out against the innovative Tote terminals, which send bets direcily into all of the Tote's pools and thus make pool bet-ting in general, and nn the small-stake, big-payout bets such as the Placepot and Jackpot in particular, much more at-

board, however, the remaining waverers will surely follow, and betting terminals operating on very similar lines to Camelot's should soon be a fixture in all but a handful of Britain's 8,700

This has important implications. The idea of a Superbet has been bouncing around for years, to such an extent that familiarity has bred deep contempt. With terminals nationwide, oot to mention a geoeral public now used to picking numbers oo a computer ticket, the foundaweek, or perhaps for an all-out marketing push behind the ex-

Ladbrokes jump

into the big pool

"Initial discussions with Channel 4, the BBC, the from their cash into a bi- Horserace Betting Levy Board and British Horseracing Board suggest a willingness to launch a TV bet with "small-stake, big win" potential," Chris Bell, Ladbrokes managing director, said yesterday. "All parties wish to take maximum advantage nf this opportunity to boost Whatever becomes of the

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Spitfire Bridge (Ludlow 3.45) NB: Kippanour

(Ascot 1.30)

Superbet, Ladbrokes are not in the deal simply to bring a smile to the face of Lord Wyatt, whose long - very, very long - tenure as the Tote's chairman is drawing to a close.

For example, of the 29 pence deduction from every pound staked on the Jackpot, 23 pence is retained by the book-maker as the commission for accepting the bet, with the remaining six pence split be-tween the Tote and Tote Direct, a separate company owned by the Tote, Coral and, following yesterday's deal, Ladbrokes

The bookies will pay £7 per shop, per week, to rent their terminals, an arrangement which will also be open to any other chains wishing to join. This too seems fairly generous, since it

tions are now in place for a would cost £1,500 to purchase Jackpot-type bet on one race a a terminal outright (just try and persuade Radio Rentals to do a similar deal nn your telly). Yet the feeling at the Tote is that there is little choice if pool betting is ever to offer serious competition to fixed odds.

"You don't get a piece of Ladbrokes' turnover for nothing," Tom Phillips, the Tote's finance director, pointed out. "We are still trying to make up the ground that was lost in the 10 years after off-course betting was legalised, when the Tote was not allowed in own betting

In the face of stiff - and thoroughly unfair - competition from the National Lottery. many bookmakers have introduced innovations (Lucky Numbers and 49s for instance) which offer no direct benefit to racing. The Tote's profits go straight back into the sport, so a development which seems sure to boost them must be wel-

It must also be noted, however, that yesterday's press release includes the news that deductions from the Placepot are to rise by 1 per cent, from 26 to 27 per cent, which implies that punters are being asked to make a contribution of their own in yesterday's groundbreaking deal. Even so, the Placepot still offers much better value, and far more fun, than Camelot's alternative, something to bear in mind when deciding what to do with your loose change this afternoon. Betting on Saturday's Tote Gold Trophy yesterday centred ou Edelweis Du Moulin, who is oow 11-4 from 7-2 with Coral.

Tingle Creek Chase on his most re-



One Man: Facing up to a tough challenge at Ascot today Photograph: David Ashdown runner, The best bet, however,

3.35; Potter's Bay made several

HYPERION L40 High in The Clouds 2.10 Three Philosophers 2.40 Joy For Life 3.15 Philip's Woody 3.45 Spitfire Bridge 4.15 Slievenamon Mist 4.45 Drum

GOING: Good to Flow (Flow in places).

Right-hand course, Chase course has sharper bends than hurthes goone.

MRececourse is north-west of town off A49. Ludlow railway station (Hereford - Shrewsbury line) is 2 miles away. ADMISSION:
Club E14 (accompanied under-the free); Tattersulle S8; Course

5. CAR PARK Free

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Scottleb Wedding (2.40) won at Chepstow on Security.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Each's Camble (3.45) has been sent

1.40 BULL RING MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E)

...... N Wilson ARAN GUMER WITHERS 5118 Notes 5118 CONTROL SWINNER

BUSINE PLEASE (8) K Balloy 5 118 COTONY

PROMETROYS PAL M Pipe 8118 COMMITTED

TO PROTOTYPE (1/2 6 Johnson Houghton 6 118 A Thomston

ROMY May J Cool 0 118 Thomston

T Horn

- 15 declared -BETTING: 4-6 High in The Clouds, 11-2 Taintheth, 8-1 Rory, Pinkerton's Poi, 10-1 Mosic Piesse, 14-1 Prototype, 20-1 others

2.10 BREDGNORTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 3m

2.40 ASHFORD MARES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds 20F333 FLJ ELBY DE TAL (20) W Turner 0 11 10. — Power (7) 102-P1 MADAME PRESIDENT (129) (9) C Mortock 0 11 8... D Powt (3) 471272 SCAMMILACK (20) (107) Jordan 7 11 7. — E Smalley 8 10-5123 STNC-POLLARIK (23) (6) K Basey 7 11 5. — C O'Dwyer 212-P23 PRST CRACK (20) (20) F Jordan 12 11 4. — S Wysses 90-4031 SOOTHEN WESDERS (4) T WEST 7 10 13 (50) R Manuscy (3) (103043- GO FROLLE (251) Mes C Profice 9 10 9. — R Manuscy (104-P20 JOY FOR LIFE (13) R Storage 8 10 1 . . . R Johnson — S declared —

HETTING: 3-1 Stac-Polisids, 7-2 Mediante President, 5-2 Fr maliach, 6-1 Scottish Wedding, 7-1 Flour de Tal, 10-1 op

must lie with Edward O'Grady's 3.15 ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 41F-P24 SPANISH LIGHT (bits (D) Se John Barlow Bt 8 12 ()_C Manda 3-12222 PHILIP'S WOODY (1st) (CD) N Henderson 9 11 6.

4412'13- NORSE RAIDER (489) M Pco 7 11 6

3.45 CHURCH STREET PAY £2,400 added 2m CHURCH STRETT'AN SELLING HANDICAP 135-P62 ASTRAL WWASHON (20) (D) T Well 6 11 13.... R Manery (3) V

63-0020 NORT BOAT (49) W Clay 8 11 1... /00000/- SPANISH ARCH (643) C Milington B 11 0 _____ J Callinty 044-005 JOSEPHYS FRODLE (7) D Williams 5 10 13 ____ R Johnson B 0-3F000 FOLLOW DE CALL (7) D McCain 7 10 12 11 OO-FOO DR DAVE (14) P Cremings 6 10 11 A Thomson
12 POO SPITTINE BROOKE (15) G McCourt 5 10 9 D Bridgowish
13 543-06 TREAT TRIES (20) F Joshus 9 10 6 S Wymn
14 OOF-PO4 TANGO MAX (7) R Price 5 10 5 J R Kenningh

Gemble 9st 12th, Woodlands Lad Too 9st 11th. BETTING: 11-2 bytten Tomple, 6-1 Astral Invesion, 8-1 Them Times, Ten-go Mes, Just For 4 Receson, Night Boot, 10-1 others

4.15 PONTRILAS HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 4f

6/PP2P BILLY BATHWATE (322) 8 Hughes 11 12 0 JMr b 9 Jones (7)
FRAIRF HICKEROW LAD (503) (CD) D Witterns 13 12 0 JMr M Rimell (3) 8 21P1/1- SUEVENAMON MEST (250) (D) Victor Dominal 11 12 0...

-T declared -BETTPG: 7-4 Beau Dandy, 3-1 Slovenseon Mist, 4-1 Mly Battenes, 5-1 Hickelton Lad, 8-1 Postoral Pride, Al Heekini, 10-1 Heekenwood Oak.

4.45 WINSTANSTOW NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds 4-606 CAPTAIN NAVAR (7) J 0 Shell 7 10 12 4-606 CAPTAIN NAVAR (7) | 0 Shell 7 10 12 | Michael Bresson (5) 16P DANCARTE (7) R Strongs 5 10 12 | D Carllagher 003-00P DODGY DANCER (12) Mrs L Wilserson 7 10 12 | L O'Hera 8 4233-96 DRIAN BOTTLE (14) W Turner 5 10 12 | A Thornton - 8 declared -BETTHO: T-4 Minelin Durby, 5-2 Benfoot, 5-1 Drum Stitle, 6-1 Tentara Lodge, 8-3 Declaratio, 10-1 Loughdon, 16-1 others

NOIL SERVICE AND MEN.

1.50 Enchanting Eve 2.20 Haute Cuisine 2.50 Maradata (nb) 3.25 Punkah 3.55 Ma Vielle Pouque 4.25 Squire Corrie

PAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to high best for 5t to 7f. STALLS: 1m - outside; remainder - inside.

Fibresand, left-band, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m. AD-ON: Clab \$16: Public enclosure \$6 (\$4 for OAP m mond (Tub-£2.50 life me

SS (444)

BLINKERED FIRST TRIE: Mr Speculator (2.50); Zine Lone (vi-stred, 2.20); Calchou & Honeyhall (visored, 4.25). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Duke Valentino (3.25) & South Eastern Fred (3.25) both won here on Wednesday. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNESS: Tear White (2.56) has been sent 143 miles by T Mills from Headley, Survey.

1.50 AVON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 7f 52-3 FAYM (28) J Whanton 8 13......

BETTING: 7-4 Zorbe, S-1 Plan For Profit, 7-2 Payes, 6-1 Enchanting Eve.

2.20 NENE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 4f 80-4020 SWANDAUE FEVER (5) N Bycold 5 9 2 _____ J Brandill (5) 5 2600-65 ZWOPK (20) J Colman 5 9 2 _____ J Colman 5 9 2 _____ D Holland 2 V 50660* ZME LANE (477) J O'Shee 5 9 2 ______ D Holland 2 V 50. CASHAPLENTY (96) N Lemoten 4 8 13 _____ T 6 Mid. Jugisho 8 DELIX CARR (USA) Bob Jones 4 8 13 ______ M Wighom 3 5200-03 MALTE CHEBBE (46) R Williams 4 8 13 ______ D Wighs 8 42084-2 GOLDEN HANDOF (20) Dr J Szegil 6 8 11 _____ N Carlisto 7 05550 RSNO'S TREASURE (169) John A Hams 4 8 8 ______

2.50 THAMES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f

3.25 TYNE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 100yds

3.25 added 1m 100yds 1 103131 SOUTH BASTERN PRED (7) (C IV) H Colongraps 8 10 2 (80) 3 PATER HOSTER (7) (b) John A Hors 8 9 11 \$ Senden 1 BOVIL ACTION (28) (c) (b) J Barles 4 9 10 M Wigher 1 DUNE VALISHENO (7) (CD) R Holleshend 5 9 10 (Seo

3.55 WELLAND SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3YO 5f

4.25 SEVERN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

10 decisned = 10 decisned

the best Man It is an interesting paradox that is probably to enjoy the moment

and hope that the best Man

Sound can be

many punters would nominate One Man as the best chaser cur-

rently in training, but rather few-

er would risk eveo a shilling on

his chance of winning the Gold

Cup at Chehenham next month,

writes Greg Wood. Chasing's greatest prize ap-

pears to ask too much of the

grey's stamina, and indeed some

would argue that the number of

horses able to see out the 26-

furlong trip is decreasing all the

time. Yet at the other end of the

distance scale, there is no end

of top-class performers, and the final furlong of the Queen Mother Champion Chase reg-

ularly provides the most

thrilling conclusion to any race at the Festival.

How fascinating it is, then, to

find one of our best two-milers,

Sound Man, lining up against his near-namesake One Man for

the Comet Chase at Ascot this

afternoon, over a distance, two

and a half miles, which should

specialist Big Mart also in op-

position, nothing can be taken

for granted, but it seems likely that this will be a Man's race.

But which nne? The grey, win-

ner of the King George VI

Day, seems sure to start fav-

ourite, while Sound Man's jumping has sometimes let him down when the pressure is on.

that Charlie Swan, who was as-

sociated with Sound Man (3.05)

during his excellent novice sea-

son, will be in his saddle once

again this afternoon, and what

value there is in today's race

It may be significant, though,

Chase at Kemptoo on Boxing

suit both horses ideally. With the promising novice Strong Promise and the course

While purists will turn their attention towards Ascot, the allweather card at Wolverhampun will also geocrate more interest than usual this afterooon, as Lanfranco Dettori swings into the plate on a British course for the first time this year.

The first jockey since Lester Piggott to capture the imagination of the non-punting public, and a thousand times more media-friendly, the Italian has numbered Top Of The Pops and the Clive Anderson Show among his noo-racing engagements in recent months, so Wolverhampton in Fehruary may come as something of 8 shock in the system.

Backers, though, will be sur-prised if Dettori's famous determination is not in evidence, and it will be an excellent afternoon for the bookies if he fails to ride at least one of his three mounts to victory.

Maradata (2.50), who ran 23 times last year under a variety of riders, but whose three successes all came with Dettori on hoard, looks a particularly promising caodidate.

RESULTS

CARLISLE

1.40; 1. PAPPRISING IA DOSom 4-7 fair; 2. Catherine's Choice 20-1; 3. Berdards 8-1 15 sen. 4, 18. IG Richards. Tota: E3.50; 51.20, £2, 70, £1 70. Duel Forecast £8.10. CSF: £18.64, Tro: £18.70 Non Runners;

Light A. Royal Rank.

2.10: 1. CROWN EQUERTY (P Cachery)

7-1: 2. Santa Concerts 4-9 Ray, 3. Tromp

7-1: 5 ran, 2, dat. (6 Richards), Tokes £8-80;

£1.90, £1.40, £1.10. OF: £4.70, CSF:
£10.33, Tro: £8.60. Non Runners: Corporal

National A. Experiments Kirkwood & Strongalong. 2.40: 1. DAISY DAYS (A.S.Smith) 9-2; 2.

2.40: 1. DAISÝ DAVS (A S Smith) 9-2: 2. Lippy Louise 14-1; 3. Asmile Alica 3-1. 11 nm. 5-2 fee Parson's Lodge (4th). 10, 1%. U H Jöhnson). Toka: £4.10; £2.20, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £12.80. CSF: £56.50. Too. £17.30. NRs: Foil of Chert, Salem Beach. 3.10: 1. MARSHE MAN (D Bentey) 5-1; 2. Regal Roonger 13-8 fax; 3. Timbueldtoo 9-4, 8 nm. %, 27. (M Hernmond). Tota: £4.80: £2.20, £1.80. DF: £4.40, CSF: £13.08. NR: Uncle Bert.

£13.08, NR: Uncle Bert, 3.40: 1, NR: Uncle Bert, 3.40: 1, NORTHERN SQUING (E Callegran) 11-4 pt may, 2, Hobbick 3-13. Managetta 11-4 pt may, 2, Hobbick 3-13. Managetta 11-5, 40: £1.70, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £7.40, CSF: £11.29, Tricast £22.51, NR: Hudson Bay

£11.29. Typese: £22.51. NC Hodsof Bay Trader, Top: £12.40. 4.10: 1. SON OF RES (P Neon) 7-1; 2. Custs Supreme 100-30; 3. Bold Ascount 1.-2. 10 ran. 3-1 for Wayuphui 55th, 17; 17; (Mrs M Reveley), Totac £8.10; £2.30, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £19.90. CSF: £2.98. Tr-cast £130.18. The: £36.70. NR Buyes Dream. 4.40: 1. TOM'S RIVER IG Lee: 10-1: 2.

One Stop 12-1:3, Water Foot 20-1, 12 ran. evens fav What A Tale (6th), 27, 13, (Mrs M Reveley), Tota: £8.30; £2.20, £2.80, £5.80, DF; £43.50, CSF: £112.98, Tho: forward to Luglow 3.45 today! Jackpot: £24,269.00. Piacepot: £14.80. Quadrot: £8.50. Piace 6: £14.46. Piace 5: £11.03.

LINGFIELD

1.20: 1. MONTONE (Dr M Macrosh) 1.1-4 g fav. 2. Bold Habit 4-1: 3. Don't Drop Bomba 4-1. 8 ran. 1.1-4 g fav Bon Scret. 1/4.8. (Jenies). Tota: £3.70: £1.50. £1.10. DF: £9.10. CSF: £12.79. Theast: £38.18. After a stewards' arquey, the result stood.

1.50; 1, REGAL SPLENDOUR (Air D Bridger 13-2: 2. Robellion 3-1 # fax: 3. Gradge 10-1. 8 ran. 3-1 pt fav Specior's Re-vonge. 11, 5. IR O'Sulleren). Total: £8.20: £1.40, £1.60, £2.60. DF: £24.20. CSF: £25.16, Theast: £183.02. 2.20: 1. EAGER TO PLEASE (D Holland)

4-5 fby; 2. Hereer Golf Charger 2.1; 2. Advance Repre 11-1. 5 zan. 2'... 3, jktss Gay Koflovesy). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £2.40. GSF: £2.27. No bid for the winner. 2.340. CSF: 52.27. No bid for the warner. 2.50; 1. JOSEPH'S WINE IAIX: Greaves; 6-4 fbr: 2. Invocation 11-4; 3. Bernard Seven 6-1, 9 ran. 7, 21°. ID Nicholls). Total: 52.20; 51.50, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £2.40. CSF £4.65. Tno: £2.60. 3.20; 1. APOLLO RED (Condy Morran 6-1) 2. Forester Times 4-1; 3. Admin. 1

1; 2. Forgotten Times 4-1; 3. Astrai trender 33-1. B ran. 100-30 tev Lord Sty, 1¹4, 0. (G 1 Moore). Teta: £6.80; £1.20, £2.40, ET 30. DF: £23.50. CSF: £28.15. Treast: £672.99. Tre: £148.10. NR: Bold Frontier. 3.50: 1. FREST CHANCE (S Drownel 5-2 fee; 2. Persug Polly 10-1; 2. Will Do 3-1. 9 mm, ri, 9. (D Elsworth), Totat £2.90; £2.70. £1.70. £2.30. DF: £9.80. CSF: £27.69. Tro: £45.70 4.20; 1. IN THE MONEY (D Griffine) 7-2 ter; 2. Dr Eeger 10-1; 2. Uoel 25-1, 13 ran. str. hd, 3. (R Hotherhead). Tote: £4,40; £1,70, £5,20, £9,10. DF: £14 90. CSF: £40 78. 7n-

COST: £745.44. Trio: £698.40. Placepot: £53,50. Quadpot: £13,40. Place 6: £15.01. Place 5: £9 95. WARWICK

WARWICK

1.30: 1. FITZWILLIAM 16 Bradley) 11-4
tnv; 2. Excited 14-1; 3. Teltrammento 8-1.
16 mm, 6, 4. || Bedding). Total: 23.60; 21.40,
£5.20. £2.50. DF: £26.40. CSF: £39.96. The
£105.70 (part won, pool of £89.40 carned
forward to Ludiow 3.40 today). NR: Raw Deal.
2.00: 1. GARNWIN IJ R Nawmagh 9-4 tov:
2. FRight Houstonant 4-1: 3. Lobster Cortage 11-1. 15 mm. 11/1, 22. IN Hendersont.
Total: £2.70: £1.80, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £5.40
CSF: £10.25. Time: £10.00.
2.30: 1. MARCHING MARQUES (R Johnson) 5-6 fav; 2. Ryder Cup 14-1; 3. Jayfores
33-1. 8 mm. 15, 3. (Nost T Chance). Total:
£2.00; £1.10, £2.40, £9.30. DF: £21.60
CSF: £14.25.
3.00: 1. MUSTHAVEASWIG (A Magure) 9-

2; 2. Bender Maris 4-1; 3. Tog of Peace 6-1. 7 rais, 3-1 fav Crinsmas Goze (unseemd rider). 5, 28. (D. Nicholson). Tota: £3.50; £2.20, £2.50. DF: £11.20. CSF: £21.87.

£2.20, £2.50. DF: £11.20. CSF: £21.87.
2.30: 1. REAGANESQUE (R Farmer) 9-4.
2. Sarford Sovereign 7-4 fav. 3. Albemeine
9-2. 6 tam. 4, 15. (P Murphyl, Totax £3.70:
£1.40, £1.60. DF: £2.40. CSF: £6.30.
4.00: 1. THE MALAMARMA (Ne P Polocic)
4-6 fav.; 2. Out For Fan 6-4; 3. Skrieut 91. 4 run. 2, 15. (Mag. C Saurciera). Totax
£1.40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £2.11.
4.30: 1. ERINTANTE (Nr T Doumen) 6-4
fav.; 2. Melody Makt 9-1; 3. Castile Mevas
16-1. 22 tam. 3, 11. (F Doumen), Totax
£2.80: £1.30, £2.70, £9.10. DF: £11.10
CSF: £19.80. Tno. £13.8.70 (part won. pool of £175.82 carned forward to Luciow 3.45
today).

Macepot: £25,70, Quadpot: £11,10. Place 6: £31,40, Place 5: £12,71,



Girard

T 5997 - THE INDEPE

\$kiing

GREG WOOD pourty after talment FORTISP'S HE FORE

Mile De Chipe M he had been de be. deal more credible. tractive to punters.
With Ladbrokes finally on

betting offices.

ASCOT 2.30: Top Spin has the ability to win this but is rarely in the mood, SPARKLING YASMIN, a game mare, seems best in the mud. But this testing track will bring her un-doubted stamina into play. Halle

3.05: As Sound Man's jumping was

2.00 MANDYS MANTINO (nap)

1.30 Can Can Charlie

3.05 One Man

SIS



Derring won a weak race fast time but could have a fitness advantage:

4.05 Proton

cent outing, it is probably best to side with ONE MAN in this fascinating a not-fully-fit Viking Flagship in the

mistakes at Kempton last time so Adrian Maguire's mount could be contest. He has not won over this trip a risky proposition over these since his provice days, but shows plen tougher fences. In contrast, DJEDty of pace in the early stages of his DAH jumped well around Kempto races. His only visit to this course rewhen winning the Grade One Feltham Novice Chase on Boxing sulted in a spectacular success. Big Day. A reproduction of that form Matt and Strong Promise both love this track and the latter is worth conwould prove too much for today's sidering for forecast permutations.

FORM GUIDE

The ground is a worry poncerning HAILE DEFIRING, who scored four times in 1.995-96 and has landed three of his four outings this season at Carlste, Haydock and Utbester, where he best Rimouski five lengths easing up. He is up 5th for that but might still prove good enough. Spaniding Yassatia, who went in at Warwick and Chepatow last term and at Newton Abbot (hasw), in November, followed that with a three-length second behind Codougold at Chepatow. But she appears to need out in the ground to produce her best. Jerny Priman has done entre well to win with 12-year-bid Colemany Boy at Sandown in December and at Kempton last time, He has been raised 6th but acts on a fast surface. Pautiswood, who lear his week in Chepaton and the term, has the mount one first time, he last term, has the me with the season after termon one first time, he last term, has the me with the season after termon one first time, he last term, has the me with the season and the season and the season are the term has the term. who lost his way in chases after winning one first time up last term, has run well in both huntle races this season, the latest when besten four lengths by Tim at Kempton on Boxing Day and he handles a sound surface.

Selection: HAILE DERRING

3.05 COMET CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £60,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £37,032

In just the style of the handleap good thing that he appeared to be. Strong Promise worked in great style and schooled over 15 obstacles last week and, after this gloss active for the

3.35 HSBC JAMES CAPEL REYNOLDSTOWN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £25,000 added 3m

BETTIME: 7-4 Djeddab, 100-30 Potter's Bay, 7-2 Mong-Ship, 13-2 Drombane, 8-1 Moneymoss, 12-

1 Brandy Cross 1990: Mr Muligan 8 11 12 R Johnson 9-4 (M Chence) 10 nm FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
French invader DIEDDOAH, who got home by a length and three parts of a length from Solomon's Dencer and Aardwolf at Kengton, can add this note pitos to his tably. Only six, there is better still to come from Francoic Doumen's charge and the sabbe won with Vol Par Nutt at Fronceit on Monday. Meny-Sidep and Monymose, both teined by Sue Smith, have been running consistently in the north and the former, with Richard Guest in the saddle, looks the stable pick. However, Petter's Bay might prove a bigger threat. He won his first three chases before being let down by his fencing when Risahing that to Greenback at Kempton but ran The Mine Captaintwho was getting 19(b) to a nack under 11st 10fb at Cheltenham the therd 15 tengths sway.

Selection: DIEDDAH

4.05 FERNBANK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,501.

FORM GUIDE This could be one for the north via MISTER ROSS, who has won both his races in tremen This could be one for the north wat amoster ROSS, who has won bout he races in tremen-dous sive and seems likely to get even better. Countantif rates a big threat in the first time binkers. He was challing up his fifth win of the season when a length and a quarter too good for Fredde Muck at Chetanham at the end of October and held a clear lead only to stumble and fell two out there here time. He followed with a second to Bissa Away, also at Prestbury Park, and was a fair third to See Victor at Kempton. Selection: MISTER ROSS

4.35 ASCOT STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £3,000 addied 2m 110yds, Penalty Value £2,274 5-51 CLIMONIA (18) (D) DAIS Jerry Elel Mrs A Perter 8 11 10 _____ D BORDONIA (86) Okto Philippe Cooper R Rome 5 11 3 _____ D JACK (81) (J Hebrerell J Tuck 5 11 3 _____ _T Jenk

1996: Ser Bessel 4 10 2 A times 24-1 pres i ruman a- an FORM GUIDS.

CLINICASE, unable to act on the softish ground when unplaced on his debut, did us a good usin when surfixing nome by seven lengths at Kempton and can supplement the gams – possibly at the main expense of Oliver Sherwood's newcorner Tuckets Town.

Selections: CLINKING.

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

Biglu-hand course with testing uphill finish.

Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 5). Railway station (service from London, Waterbo) adjoins course. ADMINSTON: Members \$13 (Junior Members \$14 (Junior Members \$14 (Junior Members \$15 (Junior Mem ILEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: N Twiston-Davies — 18 winners from 96 runners gives a success catio of 18.8% and a profit to a.5.1 level state of 530.21; Il Nicholson — 17 winners, 66 runners, 25.3%, -£7.78; J Gifford — 18 winners, 116 runners, 13.8%, -£35.43; M Pipe — 14 winners, 70 runners, 20.3%, +£15.3.11.

ILEADING JOCKETS: J Osborne — 28 winners, 111 tides, 25.2%, +£16.24; E Dunwoody — 20 winners, 115 rides, 17.4%, -£41.38; A Magnire — 18 winners, 102 rides, 17.6%, -£32.89; A P McCoy — 0 winners, 07 rides, 22.6%, +£38.54. a 1.000. — SEELENS A F SECLOY — U WINNERS, U F Hides, 22.876, +528.54.

BLEWEERED FIRST TORE: Courberil (4.05).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DESTANCE KUNNERS: One Man (3.05) has been sent 268 miles by G Richards from Greystoke, Cambrie; Brandy Cross (3.55) & Mister Ross (4.05) sent 276 miles by J H Johnson from Crook, Co Durbam.

1.30 KILFANE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,534

etock, 9-3 Shehrant, 30-3 Saugister Point, 22-1 Repasser, 34-1 Fyling Fiddler, 25-1 Reseival 1996; Landed Gentry 7 11 13 6 Hogan 9-1 (C Broot) 21 cm

FORM GUIDE

Winner of a novice event at Fakenham a year ago, HOGDED HAWK made a promising responsor when fourth behand Balanak, Kanth and Myton's Choice at Warwick (2m 35) when 5th wrong in the weights at the and of November, staying on well at the first. Nick Henderson's numer will be well susted by the extra fution and much stiffer track and can return to winning form. Headson came from a long way best to master Robert's Top a neck over an extended two at Cheltenham three outlings back – triple subsequent scorer Hay Dence that on his recipiesance. Red Miliman's numer, who weelened from two flights out when fourth to Dominion's Dream at Herdford (2m2h), ran market leader Royal Event to half a length over the minimum at Windor a week ago. The fire-year-old should get the longer trip he might have two Snow Board's race over a furlong elenter at Easter in October on his recum except for blundering two out and could go close with his light weight. Monstock, who blundered and unseased on his fencing bow at Worcester in October, his proved a model of consistency in his five hundle races this sesson. He defeated the odds-on Phar From Furny a couple of lengths in a four-numer race at Wincardon in November – Tom Descenting, most recently when besten a length and is quarter by hay Dance (who had a great deel in hand) back at the latter trach. However, Monstock, might be anothered by his 12st back over this longer trip and on such a demanding course, Klimingston accounted for subsequent scorer Capitan Jack by three lengths or a quarter-mile further then this on the sequence of him that day and he could pose a three tower this shorter distance. Northern raider Authershall but at word the same journey on a return to the Somesset track. Plentheren to destance and should not be for owny.

Selection; Total AKE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m.

2.00 STANLAKE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,065

22-1123 JATHE (CAM) (12) (3) (Down Pig & Melling Sts 110) Mrs M Jones 6 11 8 Dennik Byrne 33-22F1 SUPER COIN (44) (6) (Beorge Brodes) R Ise 9 11 8 AMANCO (USA) (5) (0) (Lacy Hantsord May A Perint 6 11 4 R Dennicody 11-1123 MANOTS MARTINO (16) (John Piccless) / Efford 7 11 4 P Hide BETTING: 11-8 Intiglo, 7-4 Mannlys Montino, 7-2 Assessio, 6-1 Super Coin 1998: Lord Dorcet 8 11 4 A.P. McCoy 3-1 (J I A Chestion) 7 con

1996: Lord Dorcet 8 11.4 A P McCoy 3-1 (I I A Crestion) 7 on FORM GUIDE.

A tirriting context this despite the small field and Authelia a narrow vote over Manady's Monthle. A tirriting context this despite the small field and Authelia a narrow vote over Manady's Monthles, his sole defeat after four runs over fences being when Calabate (who is unbestion in four chases) proved two and a heaf lengths too strong for him at Cheltenniams, Labibb had soomed at Market Rasen and Hustingsion before that and has since obliged at Doncaster, spiriting clear on the run in to alarn Golden Heato four lengths. He handles the feat ground and there is probably even better still to come from the son of Arc base Transpoino. Mandys Manthian head an excellent hurdling record and Josh Gifford hea always thought the seven-year-old would make a smart chaser. He did not fence at their faventy when a staying-on thirt behind Land After and Mister Drun at Kengton and will have learned from that. Amendo, the 1986 impertal Cup witter, tinisted runner-up in his first two chases and is on a hart-tick after runting up at Letesater and Plumpion but both were soft races. Still, he has improved his jumping and looks better than Super Colin, who was left clear at the last to Ringel's race at Chepstow.

Selection: JATHSB

2.30 SHENLEY (LINITED HANDICAP) HURDLE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 3m Pennity Value £8,083

- Description weight: 10st 40s. True handloop weight: Columny Boy 10st.
BETTING: 9-4 Mails Darring, 11-4 Postswood, 3-1 Specifing Vascale, 9-2 Columny Boy, 7-1 Yop Spin
1990: Scaler Cash 7 11 3 J Colomn: 10-1 (K Balley) 14 ron

SECOND TEST: Caddick strives for recognition but Silverwood is ruled out as New Zealand look to turn defiance into attack

Atherton unlikely to adopt a bold strategy

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Wellington

Earthquakes are not unknown here, Indeed, the Basin Reserve. where England play the second Test starting tomorrow, is lncated on land pushed up from the harbour floor during the last major quake here in 1855. Since then, the fremors have been muted and everyone here talks of waiting for the "big one" to

It is much the same with England's cricket team, who have not registered a series win abroad since they were last

around the world and one, should they manage to repeat it this time, is unlikely to have Australia – despine being well and truly Windled in Perth quaking in their flip-flups.

Back then, the Wellington Test was an irrelevance, coming as it did after England had already taken a invincible 2-0 lead. This time, and with only two Tests left, it assumes far more importance - perhaps too much for tactics to be uninhibited and both sides, despite Mike Atherton's claims to the contrary, are unlikely to be tempted into early risks.

"The series is still wide

that hardly sent shockwaves day's practice session. "Auckland was disappointing, but to go into this game saying that we can't afford to lose it is a bit negative, and I'll be looking for a more positive frame of mind. In

fact, this Test is just as impor-tant as the last Test. No more." It is an outlook that was badmissing in Wanganui, where the tourists were thrashed by a fervid New Zealand A side in a game the England captain felt that some players found difficult to give their undivided efforts and attention to.

Wanganui was a hard game after Auckland, which went the whole five days and which was incredibly tense on the final afback in order to step up a gear for the Tests.'

Ironically. Chris Silverwood. one of the few players to perform well there, is now out of the Test match after splitting the webbing on his right hand

during fielding practice.
"It's not a pleasant thing."
Atherion said after five stitches had been put in Silverwood's wound. "But injury is part and parcel of a cricketer's life and, althnugh it would have been nice to have a full complement to choose from, we haven't." However, Silverwood's in-

jury has definitely advanced

Andy Caddick's chances of

playing, particularly as the re-

and grass than its torpid predecessor, which produced 15 draws from 20 Tests until Courtney Walsh ended the sequence two years ago with a remarkable 13-wicket haul.

Like the unfortunate Yorkshireman, who notched up his career-hest bowling figures. Caddick bowled well in Wanganui, and was - despite his relatively modest haul of five wickets in the match - England's most menacing bowler.

For most of us, Caddick's presence is long overdue. Incredibly, the England management probably do not see it like that and they may consider

not, Caddick's presence will depend on the balance of England's final attack, which may yet include Robert Croft if the groundsman's promise to remove more grass from the pitch is zealously kept - a move ever more likely should Chris

his sprained ankle. However, irrespective of the pitch's condition on Thursday morning, England need in be bold - which probably means playing both Caddick and Croft and dropping Mullally and

Cairns fail a late fitness test on

It is against Atherton's cautinus nature in make changes with Croft and Cork hatting at seven and eight, despite their recent good form with the bat. Nevertheless, Atherton is

adamanı that his tenm's "level nf performance is good." and that it is only a "matter of time until results follow". Reality, though, does not offer the same generous interpretation, and having got

themselves in a position to win both the Bulawayo and Auckland Tests. England have come away empty-handed - a mere ball away from winning on both

The last time England played a Test in Wellington, I pulled out

of us need to keep something laid pitch has more bounce. Mullally another chance. If and he will not be comfortable strain on the murning of the match. It was a decision that allowed Ian Botham to play his Ittitle Test for England. As it turned out, the occasion was not filled with Botham heroies, as the match, on a typical low Basin Reserve pitch, petered out into a draw.

Football

It was also the match when David "Syd" Lawrence split his kneedap in two as he came in to bowl. It was a horrific injury which until recently - when news of an intended comeback for the Gloucestershire bowler surfaced was thought to have ended his career. Tired or not, old hissing Syd would have done nothing else but give his all in Wanganui.

Testing

time for

Taylor

Mark Taylor, whose position as

Australia captain for the Ash-

es series in England this sum-

mer is under threat, yesterday

admitted his form is giving

Test team is hanging by a thread

after a series of miserable per-

formances with the bat despite

becoming the first Australian.

skipper to win back-to-back se-

Taylor managed only 153

runs at an average of 17 in the

five-match Test series. Anoth-

three-Test series in South Africa

could sec Steve Waugh receive

the call to lead the Australians

against England in the summer.

mitted. "There is no doubt

about thal, It's amazing that

when you are out of form you

and everything happens. When

miss, and probably run the

When asked how many more

But he did admit his form was

being affected by a lack of con-

with his technique, saying: "I

"I am looking forward to get-

Tests as captain, including five se-

ries, three at home against Pak-

istan. Sri Lanka and the West.

Indies in the past 13 months.

"I am out of form," Taylor ad-

ries against the West Indies.

The 32-year-old's place in the

cause for concern.

Free-thinking Astle pays his dues

ometimes in sport, it is defiance rather than glory that captures both the public's hearts and imagination. Certainly that was the case last week when Nathan Astle and Danny Morrison kept England at bay for most of the hnal afternoon in Auckland after Michael Atherton's team bad looked set for victory in the

In the aftermath, it was Morrison, with his record number of Test ducks, who attracted the bulk of the kneejerk publicity. But for those present it was Astle, with a fine unbeaten hundred. bis third in Test cricket, who deserved the cerehral praise.

It was a remarkable innings. not least because of the uninhibited nature with which he struck the ball after England had spread the field. But then Astle is a remarkable and unconventional man who began his hist-class career as a bowler who batted at No 9.

"I started primarily as an accurate medium pacer, who did job in one-day cricket." he said, having just, somewhat apuniform for the forthcoming sestill does a pretty good job bury team-mate Chris Harris, he has one of the lowest runs per over figures in domestic one-day

Discovering another and more potent cricketing self is not unprecedented, however,

according to the New Zealand batting coach, Martin Criwe, is "particularly uncomplicated," in his approach to putting hat to

TODAY'S

NUMBER

8,000,000

The cost, in pounds sterling

of the double Olympic gold

medalust Michael Johnson's

new six-year sponsorship deal with Nike. Johnson be-

came the first man to win the

200 and 400m at the same

Games in Atlanta last year.

competition.

and it may surprise some to learn that Bob Woolmer, who won 19 caps as a top-order batsman for England, started his career as a swing bowler for Kent. Starting out as a bowler can often give an uncluttered perspective on batting and Astle,

to New Zealand's real hero from the **Auckland Test**

He gives it a rare old thump too, and Crowe feels there has probably never been a better off-side striker in New Zealand. f so, it may have something to do with a deformed thumb on his right hand, a slight handicap which may crucially prevent him from getting too much buttom hand in those beautiful strafing cover drives of his.

His first chance to hat in the top six came when Chris Harris and another Canterbury teammate Stephen Fleming were away on tour. It was a chance he did not squander and it was not long before his clean striking was the dominant feature at the head of the order in one-day cricket, a position from which he scored a brilliant hundred against England at Ahmedabad during the last World Cup.

Test hundreds, however, are rarer, more intricate beasts that proprtately. launched New require a competent defence as Zealand's garish new one-day well as thrusting strokeplay. Nevertheless Astle now has ries against England. In fact, he three from seven Tests, an impressive rate particularly when and, according to his Canter- two of those were scored against the West Indies in the Caribbean, and those in quick

In fact, he did not start that particular tour well and was not helped by being struck on the head by Patterson Thompson at Sabina Park, during the opening match of the lour. Typically he recovered to make fifty, though, after Jamaica, the pitches in Barbados and Autigua were not as brisk and he was able to get on lo his favoured front

His first crisis came, not as many might suppose in the male-dominated circles of crickcı, when his elder sister, Lisa,

BILL COLWILL

Royal Air Force

Cambridge University

Chris Kimber may not have got

engineered the downfall of

Cambridge University with a

string of shrewd passes out of

defence and some timely tack-

his penalty corners going but he

Derek Pringle talks cricket before him, but more recently, in Pakistan, when he endured such poor form that even the groundsman's donkey was

said to be able to bowl him out.
It was a run that did not trouhle the 25-year-old for long and he recalls getting over it by jotting down all the salient components he could remember about his centuries in the West Indies.

"I remember writing down how I prepared myself and realised that I just wasn't as relaxed as I should have been before I batted in Pakistan. I'm not someone who likes to concentrate before an innings and I like it when people talk to me and joke about. It helps me take my mind off things."

It is certainly a fairly radical approach, but then Astle who shares a house with Fleming in Christchurch, a household hrimming runs after the first Test - is not your typical cleancut crickeler, even if he looks the part. According to Fleming, Astle loves to play loud rave music at seven o'clock in the morning, and is next to useless when it is his turn to cook the evening

"I remember coming home once and ringing him up on the cell phone," Fleming recalls. "I told him I wouldn't be long and to get some haked beans and toast on the go. By the time I'd got home, the toast was black and the beans had been weld-

ed lo lhe pan."
On a cricket pitch though he is unfazeable, and although his hundred in Auckland was painstaking by his speedy standards, he rates it as his most satisfying.
"It wouldn't have happened

Kimber too shrewd for students

ling as the RAF heat the stu-dents at RAF Halton yesterday.

vived an initial Air Force nn-

slaught. John Mayer dribbled

through the airmen's ranks to

score in the 16th minute. The

RAF then took control, winning

a string of penalty corners but it was not until their seventh that

Ten minutes after the inter-

val, John Crewe put the RAF

Dave Oatley equalised.

After Cambridge had sur-

without Danny," he graciously admitted. "It probably wouldn't have bappened if we'd just foot and hit through the line. looked to but time either, so scoring runs was important, which is what he encouraged me to do. But most of all, it kept us in the series and that's a big buzz."



Nathan Astle, who has scored three centuries in his first seven Tests

Early warning for Lewis

Boxing

ahead after a fine run by Gra-

ham Cartmell. Then from Cam-

hridge's only penalty corner,

Neil Powell made it 3-2 at

corner switch and then Cartmell

followed up a Kimber corner

shot for the final goal.

RAP: A Seaton Logar, F. MoLean, C. humber, Weakon, D. Older, A Beresford, P. Anstee, S. Charle G. Carmell, N. Powel, J. Crewe. Substitutes use Z. Huzssan, A. Berthrade.

2 museum, a potentiale. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: P Plotrowett I Sands D Churton, O Braw, T Parr, M Loose; J Mayer, I Meredith respt. I Bateman; D Haathoote, G Play lav. Subatilasta used: T Gilman.

Umpires: N Chemi (ECHUA) & T Kelly (RAFHUA).

حكذا من الأعل

Mike Mercdith equalised.

For six minutes in Las Vegas on Friday night Lennox Lewis may face a crucial test in his career. His mentor and trainer, Emanue Steward, sees it that way; Lewis.

from Steward

apparently, does not.
"I'll be in control, don't wor ry." Lewis said calmly at Johnny Tocco's gymnasium in downtown Las Vegas after one of his final work-outs.

Steward believes the first two munds of his campaign in regain the World Boxing Council heavyweight championship at Hilton Centre will he his most dangerous when Oliver Mc-Call is certain to come nut quickly from the other corner. It could recall Wembley 1994, when McCall, then trained by Steward, pulled off a surprise victory in under two rounds.

Looking hack at the first fight, it was stopped prematurely." Lewis contends. "But I don't want to dwell in the past I just want to look to the future so I can amend it. If Oliver Me-Call thinks he can beat me again he's greatly mistaken." Steward said: "After two

rounds you'll see the aggression come in and Lennox will totally outclass him: the fight will have to be stopped by the seventh." Victory should put Lewis in

pole position for a unification bout with the World Boxing Association champion, Evander Holyfield, or Mike Tyson, who meet again on 3 May.

McCall, on his third bout of drugs rehabilitation, is to be tested before the fight by the Neva-da State Athletic Commission. The results are expected today.

Hall agrees two-year Wigan deal

Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan have heen given a major boost for their Silk Cut Chal-

lenge Cup tie at St Helens this Saturday with the news that their Welsh international hooker, Martin Hall, is to stay with the club.

Hall had been due to jnin the Australian Rughy League, hui has negotiated his way out of that lucrative contract and has signed a new, two-year deal with Wigan, for whom he has played since oining them from Rochdale

of Hall's future, and said that he would reclaim his place in the front row to face Saints.

Hornets four years ago.
The Wigan coach, Graeme
West, welcomed the resolution

The St Helens captain, Bohbie Goulding, has pledged him-self to give his all for the Cup

Playing Friday: Bristol City v Stockport.

Third Division

23 Chester v Doricaste

24 Exeter v Rochdale ... 25 Lincoln v Fulham

Premier Divisio

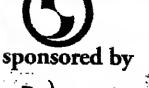
tie, despite submitting a transfer request this week.

Another unsettled player, the Leeds hooker, Mick Shaw, is joining lowly Bramley on loan. Shaw still wants to move to another Super League club. but feels that playing for Bram-ley will put him in the shop win-

Rochdale are trying to sign the New Zealander. Nathan Picchi, who was released by Leeds earlier this week.

Rugby's future

A seminar on the state of the game 7 EN ELIZABETH I CONFERENCE CENTRE nveringer 1974



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Nationwide Football League First Division 1 Barnsley v Port Vale Manchester City v Southend

Oldham v Grunsby Reading v Bolton. Also playing (not on coupons): Crystal Palace v Bradford City, Ipswich v Queen's Park Rangers, Playing Priday: Chartron v Tranmers, Stoke v Oxford, Sunday: Shef-field United v Norwich.

Second Division Blackpool v Peterborough

a Breatford v Watford ... 11 Bury v Bournemouth 13 Gillingham v Bosmi Rov 14 Lutton v Phymouth...

16 Shrewsbury v Notts County.

lanchester City v Welford (7.45 ATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION Swindon v Queen's Park Rangers (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bal dock v Kung's Lynn (7 45); Sittingbourne Gravesend & Northfleet (7.45).

ICIS LEAGUE First Division; Chesham v Mod

7.30 unless stated FA CUP FOURTH ROUND

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Football

31 Dundee United v Hibemian. 33 Hearts v Kilr

Bell's Scottish League

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Sheppey Wrossable.

sion: Eastroume Town v Burgers Hil.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Bourne v Spräding. SCREWARD ONLY SPRANG.
SCREWARD ONLY AMERICA LEAGUE Premier Division (7.45): Bueford v Taeron; Westbury v Backwell JEWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (7.45): Schemy March Sudbur Tom 1: Lowescot, PEDERATION BREWERT NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Whitty y Guaborough.

MOFF IRISH LEAGUE First Divisions / V Larne: Districty v Carnet, Coca-Cola Mit Qua first round second leg: Portadown Omagn.
PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Diversion.
FORTRIS LEAGUE Premier Diversion.
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Bromand (7.0): Fort Velocity.
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Fort Remier Rumber Third Division 45 Alloa v Cowder

39 Strking v Dundee.

Second Division 40 Ayr v Clyde

42 Cumbarton v Livingston

46 Arbroath v Albion Rovers 47 Fortar v Ross County 48 Inverness CT v East Stirting Four draws: Birmingham v Portsmouth, Blackpool v Peterborough, Wigen v Carliele, Parock v SJ Mirren

Five aways: Wolves, Bolton, Preston, Full

Ten homes: Barnsley, Oldham, Brentford Luton. Cambridge, Scunthorpe. Dunder United, Morton, Ayr, Allos.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Divi-

Rugby Union

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bid upsets Germany Football WYN GRIFFITHS

World Cup

The German federation, DFB, yesterday rounded on the

Football Association for failing to consult them before decid-

ing on a rival European bid for the 2006 World Cup finals. The DFB, embroiled in a row which also involves England and Europe's governing body, Uefa, over hidding for the event, said it had announced in 1993 that Germany would seek to host the finals.

The federation feels that its English counterpart should have informed Germany of its intentions before expressing interest in the event much later, following England's suc-cessful staging of last summer's Ешто 96. You have to ask the question

whether a country should go to a partner and tell them rather than let them be informed through the media, the DFB spokesman, Wolfgang Niers-bach, said. It is normal that countries should talk to each other I told FA official David Davies that we are not happy that things started like this. It shouldn't happen like that.
"Perhaps it is forgotten but

DFB chief Egidius Braun was a linge supporter of England to get Euro 96 at times when some people were saying the event can't go to England because of the honligans." Last Friday, Uefa an-

nounced it would be backing the Germans' campaign, spark-ing outrage in British sporting and political circles. The FA called the decision "undemocratic".

However, the Germans believe Europe can fend off competition from Africa and South America to stage the tournament only if the continent acts in unison. They are desperate to avoid a repeat of the un-seemly contest for the 2002 World Cup between Japan and South Korea. The event was eventually awarded jointly to the rival nations, a development which the Germans say is out of the question in this case.

The FA, whose argument is primarily with Uefa, has attempted to heal the rift with the DFB. "We have received a fax from the FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, saying that the argument is not with the Germans and we want to stay good friends and colleagues," Niersbach said.

There have been no dirty tricks on our part in all this. We have always put our cards firmly on the table."

Germany plans to put Franz Beckenbaner, the most suc-cessful figure in its footballing history, at the top of their bid. The former World Cup-winning captain and coach has agreed to take on the same kind of leading role which France gave to their former captain, Michel Platini, in a successful bid for the

Panucci and Chiesa recalled by Maldini

Italy's coach, Cesare Makini. has made two changes to his squad for the World Cup qualifier against England at Wem-

hley on 12 February. Enrico Chiesa and the Real. Madrid defender, Christian Panucci, come into the 21-man squad after missing Maldini's first match in charge: last month's 2-0 friendly win over Northern Ireland in Palerino.

Panucci was left out last time because he had only just moved from Milan to Spain. With the Juventus defender Ciro Ferrara now occupying the libero position. Panucci could line up at right-back instead of Angelo Di Livio and play alongside Alessandro Costacurta, Paolo Maldini and Antonio Benarrivo in

The Milan midfielder, Stefano Eranio, has dropped out of last month's squad because of injury but his club-mate Paolo Maldini, the coach's son, has been passed fit. He was substituted after suffering a leg injury during Milan's Serie A defeat to Sampdoria on Sunday.

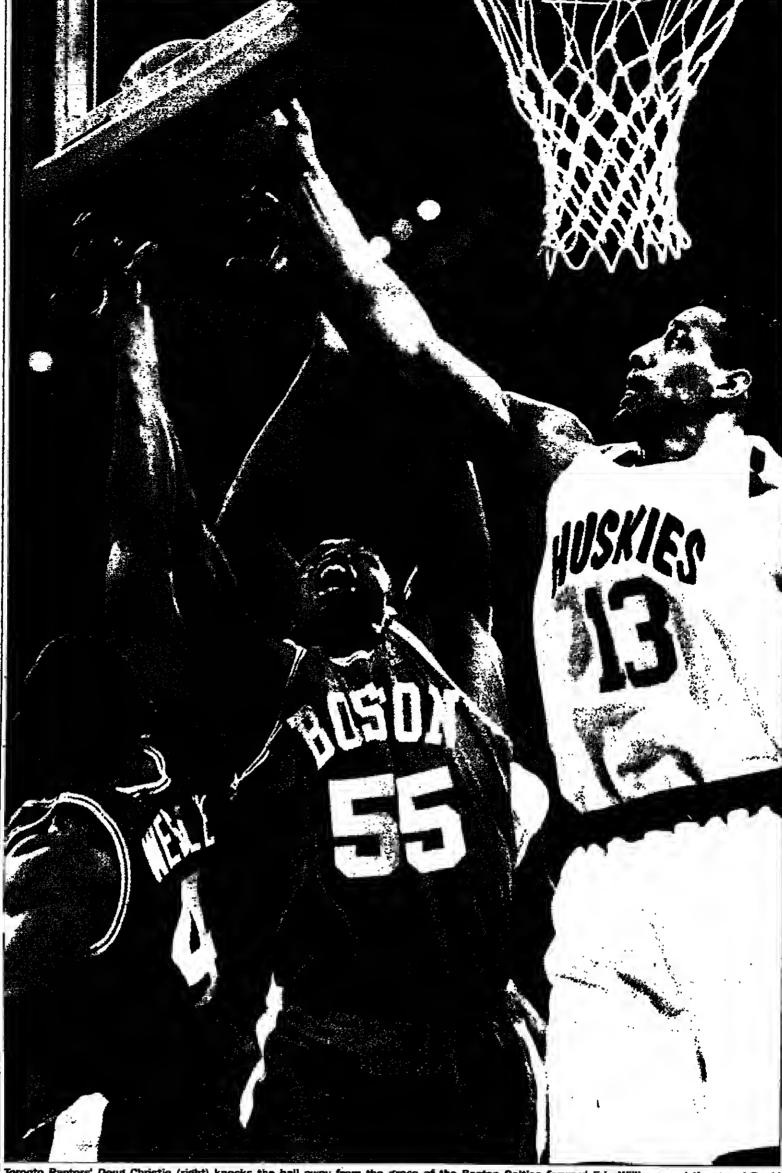
ITALY SQUAD (World Cop Group Two v England, Wembley, 12 February): Goal-keepers: Peruzzi (Luventus), Toldo (Forentina), Defenders: Ferrara (Luven-tus), Costacarta, Malaifol (both Milan), Cannavaro, Benarrivo (both Parma), Nesta (Lzzio), Freal (Internazionale), Patacci (Real Madno), Midfieliaris: Di Liv-lo (Luventus), Di Matteo (Cheisce), Al-bertini (Milari), Di Saggio (Parma), Fuser (Lzzio), Carboni (Roma), Forusacia: Casin-nath (Lzzio), Tawanelli (Middiesbrugh).

The internazionale president, ly uncertain of the future of his English coach, Roy Hodgson.

Inter have recently lost touch with the Italian league leaders. Juventus, slipping to fifth in Serie A after a poor run of three draws and a home defeat.

Moratti said: "We've got the players but we need to improve the way we play. We've got to train more and show more determination. Hodgson is conscientious but the results aren't coming, and therefore we'll have to see at the end of the season."

Moratti renewed Hodgson's contract, which runs to the summer of 1999, after Inter's 5-1 defeat of Boavista in the Uefa Cup third round last November.



Toronto Raptors' Doug Christie (right) knocks the ball away from the grasp of the Boston Celtics forward Eric Williams and the guard David Wesley (left) in the first quarter of the NBA match on Monday. Celtics cruised to a 114-102 victory Photograph: Frank Gunn/AP

Corkery unlikely to face **England**

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

The luck of the Irish? Don't mention it to David Corkery, the red-blooded blind-side flanker who slipped his challenge for a place on this summer's Lions tour of South Africa into overdrive with an uncompromisingly effective display in his country's victory over Wales at the weekend.

Although Corkery completed the match in Cardiff, it soon transpired that he did so with a broken bone in his right hand. He is doubtful for the match with England in Duhlin on Saturday week - he expects a definitive opinion from his specialist tomorrow - and may also miss the date with Scotland at Murrayfield on 1 March.

The injury is likely to hurt Ireand more than it hurt the Bristol forward, who was so focused on the rough and tumble with the Welsh that he remained unaware of any problem until, by chance, he looked at his hand and realised that the ring finger was at 90 degrees to the rest of

"I thought at first that it was a had dislocation, so I pulled the finger back into shape myself," said the 24-year-old fitness instructor from Cork vesterday. "I did that to make sure of staying on the field - I had no intention of going nff - but as it turned out, I did the right thing from a medical point of view. I've been told that by acting immediately, I minimised the damage.

"The X-ray has confirmed a hreak and all the details have been given to an orthopaedic surgeon. I'd like to think I was 50-50 for the Eogland game ~ as broken hands go, it's not the worst - but I suspect I'll be very fortunate to make it."

Ireland will curse their misfortune if their outstanding big-hit tackler is forced to withdraw, but they have room to ma-nocuvre. They could recall Eddie Halvey or Anthony Foley, who are both full internationals, or gamble on a debut for Kieran Dawson, the London Jrish short-side specialist.

A still more attractive option might be to relocate Eric Miller from No 8 to Nn 6, thus creatshift from second row to back row with Gabriel Fulcher restored the engine room. But Johns is playing the best rugby of his life at lock and with Miller in equally inspirational form, the selectors might prefer to leave well alone. The Irish announce their side on Sunday. Joost van der Westhuizen. South Africa's try-scoring scrum-half, has joined the list of players in the World XV squad to play England's champions at Twickenham on 24 May for the Sanyo Cup. The squad, captained by Philippe Sella, already contained most of the world's best players including David Campese and François Pienaar.

Happy travels for Boston

Fric Williams scored six of his 27 points in a pivotal third-Quarter run as the Boston Celtics recorded a 114-102 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Monday.

Dodd Day scored 26 points
and David Wesley added 25. II
assists and seven rebounds for

sts and seven rebounds for the Celtics, who won away from home for just the second time n 19 hoad games this season. Thiwas a nice way to bounce act. from yesterday's loss to ancouver, the Boston coach. was a nice way to bounce MIL Carr, said of Sunday's 102,92 defeat. "It was great teamericat, a good distribution of scaring. Our guys need some

Shann Van Allen scored twice

in a three-goal first period as the

Ottawa Senators reached 10

home victories for the first time

in their five-year history with a

64 win over the Vancouver

Alexei Yashin scored a goal

his 24th - and two assists,

Steve Duchesne got one and

one assist and Janne Laukkanen

and Randy Cunneyworth set up

playing lately," Yashin said.

but I don't think it's just me,

it's a team game and a line game

and we're just all playing well

5-2-3 in their last 10 games and

raised their record at home to

The Senators improved to

"I really have been enjoying

two goals each.

:right now."

Canucks on Monday.

whose club ended a 15-game losing run against the Eastern

Conference opponents. Toronto led 74-65 with 6min 47sec left in the third quarter before Boston began to wrest control. Marcus Camby pulled Toronto within 91-85 with 9:47 remaining. But Antoine Walker made a pair of lay-ups to extend the lead to 10 points and Boston pulled away.

In San Antonio, Mitch Richmond scored 26 points and combined with Jeff Grayer for 11 points in an 20-0 second-half run as the Sacramento Kings

beat the Spurs 85-79.
At Utah, Kari Malone scored 14 of his 24 points in the first half as the Jazz used a 16-0 first-half run to pull away for a 111-89 desmall victories since this team

the Senators winger Denoy

Lambert made a perfect break-

out pass to Alexandre Daigle,

who converted the breakaway

for his 20th goal with 78 seconds

proved teams in the NHL."

the Vancouver coach. Tom Ren-

"This is one of the most im-

left to seal the victory.

has struggled." added Carr, feat of the Washington Bullets. Senators have perfect 10

> 10-14-6. Ottawa built a com-manding 5-1 lead and took a Morgan's early challenge. 5-2 advantage into the third period. But David Roberts and Mike Ridley scored less than three minutes apart for Vanconver in the third period to make it a one-goal game.
> The Canucks piled on the pressure in the Ottawa zone, but

> ney, said of the Senators. on my next red." In Calgary, Stephane Fiset made 38 saves, including 14 in the third period, as the Los Angeles Kings beat the Flames 3-2. in Birmingham last month.

Hendry faces O'Sullivan in quarter-finals

Snooker

Stephen Hendry enhanced his phenomenal record at the Benson and Hedges Masters yesterday by beating Brian Morgan 5-1 to reach the quarter-finals at Wembley Conference Centre. But the Scot, victorious in 29 of 31 matches since making his Masters debut in 1989, left the arena disappointed at failing to

convert a golden opportunity for a maximum 147 break. After winning the first frame, Morgan looked capable of repeating his surprise victory over Hendry in the last 16 of this season's Asian Classic in Thailand. But Hendry, attempting to lift the trophy for the seventh time. fired in hreaks of 70, 66, 65, 69 and 71 to lead 5-1 and repel

The world champion, favourite to win on Sunday, then gave himself an outstanding chance to finish in a blaze of glory. Hendry potted the first 11 reds along with 10 hlacks in frame seven but, just as a maximum break looked possible, kissed off the brown as he tried

to line up his next black. He then undercut the black to dash his hopes of repeating his maximum at last month's Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge. He said: "The table was extremely fast and J had to try and roll it in quietly to hold

Hendry now tackles Ronnie O'Sullivan, his victim in that Charity Challenge final victory

American football Gava Hastings has confirmed he will not be playing for the Scottish Claymores, the World League champions, next season, though he will assist the club in marketing and promotional projects. The Claymores are negotiating to bring Gary Parker, the Meliosa rugby player, to the club as a possible replacement. Athletics

SPORTING DIGEST

Attributes
The British Athletic Federation took en-The british Author (Federation took en-other step towards a healther financial future yesterday with a new £3m spon-sorable from Bupa. It follows other four-year deals worth £4m each with the sportswear firm Reebok and Charunel 4 for coverage of major meetings.

Baskethall Isaac Morgan, Sheffeld Sheris's American signing, has returned to the United Streets for personal reasons. NBA: Boson 114 tooner 102; Secamento 85 San Ambrio 79; Usah 111 Washington 69.

Cricket

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SASPTELD SHELD (Finel day of four): Adelaide: South Austrein 293 (O S Lehmenn 75, 3
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104 and 124 6f A Rose 4-29. Jamains woo by
11, runs. Georgistows: Guvera v Leoward Islands.
Natch abandonad (rain).
SUPPRESPORT SERES (Four-day musiches)

NAMEN AGRICONO (1944). SERES (Four-day matches) Biocenfortein (final day): Free Siste 401 and 257 for 9 dec 10 Jondan 11:79 Smydom 4-52; Bode 367 for 9 dec and 222 to 5 G Pope 8810; Match drawn, Past (third day); Bobra 201 and 237 (A Nagor 82, 4 Wyler 61); Eastern Province 262 and 17 for 0. Football

Commissions of the Dr Marters League and the Football Association yesterday found Menthyr Tydfil had no grounds to dismiss Mark Aidewood, the former Weish defender, from his player-coach role. This was upheld by an arbitration panel representing both sides. Altiewood.

dismissed two years ago, will now press for a cash settlement. for a cash settlement.
Celic are expected to sign the Italian defender Enrico Arnoni later this week after the Roma player arrived in Glasgow for contract fells.
NORTHERN RELAND SQUAD Gitamational theody v Beigham, Belfast, 11 Februarys Wigst, Fettis (both Northighm Forest, Gibertell (Personal Language) (

TALY UNDER-21 SOUAD (European Un Championship v England, Ashton Carte, Bit tal, 12 Pebruary: Baripo (Perrer, Seron (San pores; Pistone Imercatorale, Santor (Voctos Franceschiel (Marselle, Ismoconti (Luciusa 2000 (Mian), Peseresi (Samodora), Rivatta (Ce vere), De Ascentia (Ban), Taccincardi Livven a.s., Foglio (Justerra), Merino (Asterita), Berondo (Lazor, Austresia) (Afan), Bachini (Lebes), Lecensell (Oferesa), Lescusell (Oferesa), Lescusell (Oferesa), Lescusell (Oferesa), Lescusell (Percent Carpennell), Samptonal, Persona (Berlin, ERGLAND SQUAD (Seent-Professional Interactional of Pepublic of Instance), Rethaused Park, Duttin, 25 February); C. Betty Mrotogi, P. Sottand (Degenters) in Association, Rethaused Park, Duttin, 25 February); A. Betty (Williamson destination), 3 Bit (Neuril, N. Howarth (Meccastelle)), K. Bervars (Wolang), P. Webb (Kiddermarder), S. Betty (Woland), P. Webb (Kiddermarder), S. Betty (Woland), P. Webb (Kiddermarder), S. Betty (Woland), P. Webb (Kiddermarder), K. Branco, Hoogani, Rhander & Demondo, R. Miserian (Hyde Linted), S. Heyles (Stevenge Borothy), R. Debarry (Puddermarker), L. Penghas (Modermarker) Harmes), J. Cooke (Vorthwich Victoria) manager in Scottish football when she took up the post at Perick Thistle in the late 1980s. Devid Bradbury, the Oldham forward who toured the South Pacific with Great Britain last autumn, has agreed a new improved two-year deal with the Beers. Rugby Union Neil Boobyer, the Lianelli centre, will be out of action for about three weeks af-ter suffering a broken bone in his hand against the Insh club St Mery's College.

LOAN TRANSPERS: Stave Castle Impfielder; Brinnighern Cdy to Leyton Onent, Paul Hyde (goal-leeper) Lexister Cdy to Leyton Onent; Shaon Yeale reference Transmer to Prestor; Jehn Yaughan (goaleseper) Lincoln Cdy to Cochester.

(golfineper) Ericon CRy 19 Cochester. FA CARLING PREMIETESHEP AND NATIONWIDE PRIST DIVISION ONE SUSPENSIONS: Sending oft N Lessus (Leospier) 3 majches from 8 Feb Print Invision use sub-rusculous sensor of Pol. A Impay (Queen's Pain Rangers) of marches from 8 Feb. 22, personally points: E healery (Locaster), E Dankers (Marchasta Uto) coth 2 matches from 8 Feb. 3 Personal (Notes) (Sheffeld Uto) 2 matches from 12 Feb. M Februsco (Sheffeld Uto) 2 matches from 7 Feb. D Raddist (Queen's Peb. Rangers), R Marchasta (Notes) both 2 matches from 8 Feb. K O'Neill (Notes) both 2 matches from 5 Feb. K O'Neill (Notes) both 2 matches from 5 Feb. K O'Neill (Notes) M March (Southeron) both 2 matches from 8 Feb. K O'Neill (Notes) (Southeron) both 2 matches from 8 Feb. K O'Neill (Notes) (Southeron) both 2 matches from 8 Feb.

5 Fab. C Highes (Linch), M March (Southern)
50 TZ maxives from 8 Feb.

MATIONWEDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-enranged
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MORDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Dr Morteus League
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Division Presson 2 Workers of, Arch Beaumann, dr
2 Senton 2 C Crosses D Queen's Page Rangers
3 at Pingetonian); Westord 1 Porternouth 2 Let
Overson 1 Spanish Leaguer Entremadura O Hercules 0.

ice hockey NHL: Florida 2 Montheel 2 rod; Otama 6 Vancouve 4; Los Angeles 3 Catgary 2; Chicago 4 San Jose

Rugby League

ice skating Oksana Barul, the Olympic and former world figure slating champon who was charged with drunk and recidess driving

when her Mercades left the mad last month, was yesterdey gramed leave to enter an alcohol education programme. If Belut, of Heriford, Connecticus, successfully completes the programme, the drunk driving charge will be dropped. On the rechiess driving, Belut entered 0897 300 301 SKICODES For a lax list of 180+ a no-contest ples to a reduced charge of traveling unreasonably fast and was fined \$90 (£57).

Oldram Bears yesterday named Dorothy Martin as their new commercial man-ager to succeed Ray HK, who has joined Salford Reds. Martin, 36, from Glasgow, became the first female commercial DIRECT

resort codes 0990 100 843

Chris Law's team, which includes Brit-

ıan's Olympic silver medallist Ben Amsile and fellow Olympian Andy Hem-

mangs, was lying fifth out of 12 at the and of the second day of the first round-robin in the Australia Cup on the Swan River, Perth. Law's score of four wins

and three losses keeps him well in con

AUSTRALIA CUP (Perth) First round-rable: 1 M Hotmberg (Swe) 6 ways, 1 loss; 2 B Pace (Fr) 5-2; 3 P Gumour (Aus) 5-3, 5 C Lew (NZ) 4-3,

Spooker BEXISON AND MEDGES MASTERS (Wembley Conference Centre) Second round: S Hongry (SCO) bt B Margen (Eng) 6-1

Tennis

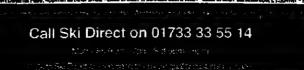
Steffi Graf now hopes to be fit to play n a WIA event in Hanover starting on 17 February after the injury to her left knee, which forced her to withdraw from the Pan Pacific final in Tokyo at the week-

AUSTROAN WOMER'S OPEN (Line) Singles Bird Found'S Testud (Fn by PH)-Brusse. (Carl 4-6-6 0-6-3): B Strater (Ge) or E Wagner (Carl 7-5-5-0 rd; M Maisen (Bub bt A Maler (US) 6-3-2-6 G-2.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct SKI HOTLINE Around the resorts Latest snow and weather reports

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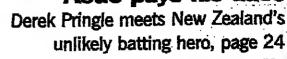
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and to

Keith Elliott on the gimmick-free

alternative to aerobics, page 22



Tanner banned for three months

ADAM SZRETER

The Ipswich Town manager George Burley last night promised to stand by his mid-field player. Adam Tanner, after he was hanned by the Football Association for three

months for taking cocaine.
The 23-year-old became only the third English League player to test positive for cocaine after being asked to provide a random sample at the Ipswich training ground on 9 December.

After a two-and-a-half hour hearing at Lancaster Gate, during which Tanner made full admissions and said he had been guilty of senseless and foolish behaviour", the three-man commission handed out a sentence which was regarded as lenient.

"Adam knows that he has done wrong, that he has let down himself, his family and the club and that if it happens again it will he the end of his football career," said Burley. "He made a very bad mistake and has to accept his punishment. But the expert evidence said that this was a one-off isolated incident in social circumstances.

Burley and the midfield play-er, Simon Milton, acted as character witnesses for Tanner, who admitted knowingly allowing his drink to be spiked with the Class A performance-enhancing drug in a nightcluh.

Brendon Batson, the deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, stressed at the hearing that the PFA's campaign against drugs in football would continue. "Our position on drugs remains the same - they have no place in football," Batson said.

We do not want to see any lads, whether junior or senior professionals, putting their careers and the good name of a very good hearing. The decision taken suits the offence and now the lad has to go on to

put things in order." David Chrola has trinted to would relish a return to Paris St-Germain after losing his firstteam place at Newcastle. Ginola has made only two starts in five matches under Kenny Dalglish. "As far as transfers are concerned, nothing is definite until the forms are signed." Ginola said. "But I'm disappointed when I see Paris's results and I've not forgotten the club

where I had some magic times." The Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson has added to his Brazilian contingent by sign-

ing Emerson's cousin. Fabio, on an 18-month contract after a trial. Fabio, a 24-year-old midfielder, holds a Portuguese passport so Middleshrough

passport so Middleshrough have no work permit problems. Meanwhile, Middlesbrough fans yesterday delivered 18,500 signed postcards, including one from their former player Wilf Mannion, in a petition to the FA to try to overturn the three-point. point penalty following their failure to fulfil a Premiership fixture at Blackurn in Decemher. Dave Roberts, who commentates for a local radio station, said: "You can fine the club and that will hit them hard but you're not punishing the fans at the same time, and that's the message the fans wanted to put across.

Mick Jones, the assistant to the sacked Plymouth Argyle manager Neil Warnock, has been put in caretaker charge of the Second Division club.

Bournemouth are to apply to the High Court to withdraw the receivers, called in last week by Lloyds Bank, who are owed £2.1m of the club's 4.4m deht. Bournemouth's director Roy Pack claims the club has never been in default with interest or capital repayments - but Bournemouth's new Trust Committee helieves Pack's stance is not in the cluh's best interests.

Brighton supporters have made it clear that Saturday's protest at the Goldstone Ground, involving fans from all over the country, will still go ahead despite a series of measures aimed at placating them. Terry Venables is to hold a

training camp in Europe to help prepare overseas-based Australian players for forthcoming World Cup qualifying matches. The former England manager plans to base the fourday coaching session in either Britain or the Netherlands.

a vote of confidence from the Barcelona club board ahead of tomorrow's Spanish Cup tie with Real Madrid. The former England would have also been backed by a group of fans who took out a newspaper advert asking for "respect, justice and support" for Robson.

However, Robson will he nervous to hear that the Ajax coach Louis van Gaal's negotiadons to sign for a foreign club were "at an advanced stage" but he still felt it too early to name his new employer. "I have been linked to AC Milan, Barcelona, nich, you name it. I have to admit that list flatters me," he said.

Horseplay on the snow and ice at St Moritz

sport



Switzerland experienced all the fun of a day at the races when St Moritz hosted a meeting with a difference this week. Horses raced on a frozen lake covered in snow wearing grips to keep them upright. Michael Hourigan, the Irish trainer, enjoyed two winners ridden by his son Paul.

Clark warns City crowd to be patient

Manchesier Chy players to re-ward the faith of their die-hard Maine Road fans by harnessing the magic of the FA Cup.

City take on Watford in a delayed fourth round tie tomorrow night, with a home clash with Middlesbrough the lucrative prize if they overcome the

Second Division club. Clark, who has steered his side to a five-game unbeaten run since becoming the club's fifth Newcastle United, Bayern Mu-manager this season, wants a repeat of the sort of stylish per-formance they put on at Oxford

"It's important to win your home games to get the fans on your side and keep them there," said Clark, who began his reign with three draws before an FA

Cup win at Brentford and the victory at Oxford. "A good FA Cup run would give everyone con-nected to the club a big lift and especially the fans who have

been absolutely magnificent."

Despite all their problems,
City have attracted crowds averaging almost 27,000 and they expect that many to watch the

Frank Clark has called on his on Sunday, where they won 4-1, Watford game. Clark has el then they may turn against blanchesser Chy players to re-ward the faith of their die-hard "It's important to win your tience as Watford have demontience as Watford have demonstrated their resilience by compiling a 22-match unbeaten run that has included just

> nine victories. Watford's manager, Kenny Jackett, who saw his team avoid the Football League record of eight successive draws by beating Rotherham 2-0 on Saturday, believes his men can upsel the odds if they can keep the City fans quiet. "It will be a very hig crowd and a very vocal crowd, hut if we can get to half-time lev-

players will have dreamed about, playing against a hig club like Manchester City in a terrific stadium and in front of a big crowd. It will be a great experience from them and I believe that we are well capable of going there and getting a win it

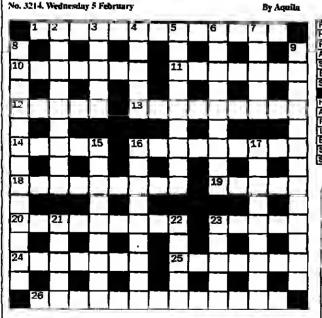
we perform well on the night. Watford could welcome back their striker Kevin Phillips after an ankle injury that has sidelined him for 10 months, although Devon White and Keith Millen are

suspended and Gary Porter and David Connelly are injured. With on-loan Nottingham

Forest full-back Craig Arm-strong ineligible, Jackett will once again be forced to turn to the youngsters, with tender trio Richard Flash, Dominic Ludden and Wayne Andrews all included in the squad.

City also have their problems, with their on loss Forest goalkeeper, Tommy Wright, unavailable, their new signing Kevin Horlock cup-tied, Ian Brightwell ruled out by a calf injury and central defensive pair Kir Symons and Alan Kernaghan both having flu and hamstring doubts.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



10 Constantly overdrawn, yet greatly admired (7)
11 Virginia, one who is enter-tamed most imprecisely (7)

12 Loose-jointed section of plank yielding (5)
13 Able to keep English wine in French bank? (9)

14 Standards of society full off to start with (5) 16 Concerned with the line

from Lancaster? (9) 18 Willingness to change one note for A ——— that gives the oboe quality (9) Boy taking on Olympic finalists is involved in a row (5)
 Soldiers, united in mission.

demand vigour on the square (4-5)

23 March King (thus states One appointed by pope to call attention to west, for ex
24 Novelty, having no pub wel-25 Leaflet describing atrium (7) 26 Striker not back at work? (6-

The edge of Wimbledon? (9) Cheese in American bowler

Depths of rain, perhaps, en-gulling daughter (5) Book in which evil is cut out (9)

Consoled, say, they stop playing (9) New delivery marks (5) In favour of time-share huild-up? (13) One taking valentines, we

hear, replaces these unusual-

RECORDIUBRARIES
A K E F B D R P
SOON STULY APSE
STAVISH REAGENY
B V S
HALBERD BANQUET
A T L E I M A
PARA AFTER OPAL
L A T L F S T L
ENDOWNENTPOLICY

15 Hide female dressing.

Doncer? (9) 16 Untypical behaviour near caber-tossing (9)
17 He abandons engineers, new to lightweight railway... (9)

... platform for engineer of another kind? (5) 22 Goddess inspiring words of opera, Tosca (5) 23 Wages spiral (5)

Zombie, Doggy and the song album from hell

Cricket

Alec Stewart John Crawley

Dominic Cork

Darren Gough

Andy Caddick

Robert Croft Phil Turnell

NICK DUXBURY

Karaoke crooners are in for a cricket fields of New Zealand where all five one-dayers against England will offer a host of tracks from the Greatest Dressing-room Album Ever.

Personally selected tunes, including "Cigarettes and Alco-hol", will add to the repertoire of England's "Barmy Army" touring fans, thanks to the New Zealanders' desire to spice up the internationals by playing the hatsmen's favourite ditty as they walk to the crease. The England players have re-

captain, whose innings during the tour bave rarely lasted longer than a three-minute sin-

Summer of 69".

Waves. Alec Stewart, however,

may he accused of taking the

tongue-in-cheek approach too

far with rocker Bryan Adams'

sponded with a light-hearted se-lection. Hence the choice of the Might Say", while his vice-cap-tain Nasser Hussain was no doubt thinking about the per-formance against the might of once wayward Phil Tuffnel for the Oasis number concerning Matabeleland with "Zombie". smoking and drinking. Darren Gough, whose star has waned after heing hailed as the new The opener Bryan Young has done his credibility ir-Botham, still has enough self-belief to go for "Walking On Sunshine" by Katrina and the

reparable harm by having Sade's "Smooth Operator" on the Kiwi songsheet, but they do warm up a little with Chris Harris opting for Tommy Roe's "Dizzy" and Nathan Astle's "Unhelievable" by EMF.

Summer of 69".

Sadly, the best song may never by heard. England's reserve wicket-keeper, Jack Russell, is struggling to get a game but should he get the call, clear the throats for "How Much is that glc, has a liking for another song by Brit pop's finest - "Some Doggy in the Window?"

ENGLAND'S HITS AND MISSES The Official England List Some Might Say (by Ossis) Milke Atherton and Nick Knight Nasser Hussain Graham Thorpe Swamp Thing (The Gnd) Wonderwall (Casis)

There's Nothing I'Won't Do CPO. Walking On Sunshine IKatrina and the Waves) Two Tribes (Frankie Goes to Hollywood) Delilah (Tom Jones) Cigarettes and Alcohol (Ossis) Supersonic (Oasis)

(Marcella Detroit and Elton John) How Much is that Doggr in the Window? ______ four Ve Lost That (G)Loving Feelin' David Lloyd

Should I Stay Or Should I Go (The Clash) or... Go Now (Moody Blues) Stuck in the Middle with You (Steelers Wheel)
Hattway To Paradise (Bitly Fur)
Son of my Father (Middle of the Road) Alone Again, Naturally (Gilbert O'Sutlivan)

> On Illdev Moor Bar Tat (Trad) Don't Look Back in Anger (Gasis) Nowhere Man (Beades) (S)pinbell Ward (The Who) Bat Out Of Hell (Meatloaf) Great Balls of Fire Lierry Lee Lewish Wannabe (Spice Girls) Left of Centre (Steanne Vega)

(Righteous Brothers) Many Many (Billy Idal) or... Reasons to Be Cheerful (lan Dury)

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